

STOCKTON YOUTH ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCTION

Young people from across the Borough came together on 30 September 2013 to take part in the very first Stockton-on-Tees Youth Assembly Annual Debate.

Delegates were all aged 13–19 years and are members of Stockton's brand new Youth Assembly. The Youth Assembly is made up of young people representing their schools, youth clubs, and youth projects from across the whole Borough as well as Stockton's Youth MP and Deputy Youth MP. It will give young people a voice by providing a way to contribute to matters affecting them and give the Council a youth perspective when planning and developing services.

The first Annual Debate took place in the Jim Cooke Conference Suite which is usually where the Council's Cabinet and Committees meet to make key decisions about the borough. Councillors, the Police & Crime Commissioner, Catalyst who represent the Voluntary and Community Sector, and key officers from the

Council were also in attendance to discuss issues that are important to young people.

The topics discussed included key policy areas that most affect young people and areas that young people said they wanted to talk about, and will become part of the Youth Assembly's work programme. These were:

- Health & Wellbeing
- Police & Crime
- Getting Ready for Work
- Arts & Leisure
- Communities & Environment

Following the success of the first Annual Debate, it will become a key date in our calendar and we hope that its success will continue to grow!



Stockton-on-Tees
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Children and Young People

Big plans for the young people of our borough



Health & Wellbeing

The Director of Public Health opened the debate on Health and Wellbeing by asking those attending what they think the **School Nursing Service priorities should be**, and what health issues are important to them.

The health priority most important to young people is mental and emotional health and wellbeing followed by a confidential service and one to one support. This is different to what health professionals thought would be most important to young, which is ensuring a confidential service followed by preventing health problems and being easy to access.

Mental and emotional health and wellbeing and the affect it can have on education was a key area discussed. This is an area that young people think should be assessed more regularly.

The word cloud (right) highlights what health and well being issues young people think is most important to them:



Police & Crime

The Police and Crime debate was opened by the Head of Community Protection, who explained that in the 2010 Crime and Disorder Survey young people under 16 named vandalism and alcohol misuse as their top two priorities for crime, and that their six priorities for crime were the same as the overall results.

The attendees discussed the current number of Anti-Social Behaviour Orders given to young people, and explored their **views on what is anti-social behaviour**, what can be done to stop anti-social behaviour, and how safe they feel in the Borough.

The young people were all invited to get involved in the 2013 Crime and Disorder Survey.

The word cloud (left) highlights the key messages from the Crime and Disorder debate:





Stockton Youth Assembly (SYA) will consider the following topics at their scheduled meetings:

- November Health – School Nursing
- January Leisure/Youth Services
- March Community Safety
- April Communities and Environment Stockton Youth Assembly Annual Report

The Young Representatives on the SYA will be supported throughout and offered appropriate development opportunities, including working towards the British Youth Council Voice Certificate.

For further details on the work of the Stockton Youth Assembly please contact Youth Direction or Democratic Services on 01642 393939

