



Opportunities from Devolution

Elizabeth Harding

- Network
- Co-ordinate
- Broker

Specialising in Youth Voice

- Providing opportunities for young people to have a voice
- Working with organisations to improve how they listen to and talk to young people

Youth Voice

- Youthforia
 - UKYP/BYC
 - Youth Councils
 - All 23 LAs
- Children in Care Network
- Participation/CiCC Workers network

Greater Manchester Combined Authority



- local transport
- new planning powers
- fund for housing
- Work and skills
- Police and Crime Commissioner being merged with the elected mayor along with fire service
- health and social care spending, devolution of a budget of around £6 billion in 16/17.

Youth led

Young people contacted us to ask about Youth Voice in this new administration

We were able to:

- respond to young people who raised the issue of youth voice
- work collaboratively across the 10 boroughs
- build on what already exists

What?

- Bottom up approach
- Together WITH young people we talked to anyone who would listen
- Young people met with prospective and confirmed candidates
- They worked with other initiatives i.e. Political Studies Association, Dr Andy Mycock, University of Huddlesfield
- Youth hustings <https://vimeo.com/213937490>

What?

- Young people worked through a potential structure
- Keeping local youth councils fully engaged
- Networking with local voluntary youth organisations
- Holding a series of events with wider groups of young people
- Pulling together worker networks to keep people informed and to bring VCS into the process

What?

- Identified with YP the key issues they wanted the GMCA to respond to
- Persuaded our Board to let us do the work (unfunded)
- Supported an emerging leadership group
- Held a youth conference with key decision makers

Successes

All the candidates committed to supporting:

- The idea of a youth assembly / Youth Combined Authority
- Votes at 16
- A Greater Manchester Curriculum for Life

Andy Burnham put the YCA and C4L in his manifesto

Challenges

- Not being heard and having to keep persisting
- Not connecting with senior leadership in LAs at the right stage
- Not having a high enough presence in terms of marketing, promotion etc

Challenges

- National organisations lobbying to do the work and lots of different initiatives springing up
- Working cross sector to avoid duplication

YCA Proposal



A YCA that will:

- Advise the Mayor and GMCA on key issues and concerns of young people, and provide solutions
- Provide a critical voice and scrutinise the work of the Mayor and GMCA
- Undertake specific pieces of work, e.g. develop Opportunity Pass, Curriculum for Life

YCA Proposal

- Each youth council will have two members - 20
- 10 VCS groups will have 2 members each representing communities of interest - 20
- Working groups on specific issues open to interested YP from wider pool

What have we achieved

- GMCA have approved a three year budget to support the development of a Youth Combined Authority
- Work with GM Health and Social Care Partnership –creation of a health charter
- Started embedding youth voice as a youth work process in GM
- A willingness to collaborate across sectors and develop a GM strategy

What have we achieved

- Demonstrated working across LAs
- Young people can be powerful advocates with politicians
- Started piloting a Level 3 Youth work course as a collaboration between LAs and VCS (Oldham, Rochdale, Mahdlo, the Proud Trust and YFNW)

Any questions?

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