“Where every child’s voice matters”

staying Safe being Healthy enjoying and Achieving making a Positive contribution Economic wellbeing
If you are a young person who would like to be part of SHAPE Programme through SHAPE Youth Forum, which meets every two weeks or if you are a school who would like to be involved and nominate SHAPE Champions please contact us on:

**email:**
SHAPE_Events@sandwell.gov.uk

**web:**
www.sandwell.gov.uk/SHAPEevents

**phone:**
0121 569 5814
The SHAPE Programme is an initiative developed in December 2014 by Sandwell Council led by Jyoti Atri, (Director of Public Health and Corporate Child’s Voice Lead) and Councillor Simon Hackett (Cabinet Lead for Children’s Services). Partner agencies include the National Health Service, Police and voluntary sector. It’s objective is to listen to children and young people in Sandwell on these five areas:

• Staying Safe
• Being Healthy
• Enjoying & Achieving
• Making a Positive contribution
• Economic wellbeing

The SHAPE Programme in 2015/16 was funded by the Council with contributions from each Directorate resulting in £35,000. A further £35,000 of funding was provided through the Troubled Families fund therefore the Programme had a total budget of £70,000.

The Programme has developed since its inception and now consists of a series of events and opportunities for young people to come together and share their views on services in Sandwell as well as take part in fun and innovative activities.

This Annual Report outlines the findings from the SHAPE Programme over the last 12 months, including survey results from 438 respondents in 2014 and 563 in 2016, through consultation with young people as well as demonstrating the success and involvement of young people in the programme.
What we’ve done...

SHAPE PROGRAMME 2015 - 16

SHAPE OUR FUTURE CONFERENCE
(1 December 2014)
Child’s Voice Conference

SHAPE PLEDGES
(31 March 2015)
Development of partnership pledges to address conference outcomes.

SHAPE YOUR TALENT AUDITIONS
(18 April 2015)
In conjunction with Sandwell College
A Talent Show for 9 - 19 year olds.

SHAPE YOUR TALENT FINAL
(26 June 2015)

SHAPE YOUTH FESTIVAL
(29 August 2015)
Outdoor event to promote healthy activities.

SHAPE OUR FUTURE SURVEY
(Oct - Dec 2015)

NATIONAL TAKE OVER CHALLENGE
(16 - 27 November 2015)
Young people takeover the role of senior officers and Directors

YOUTH TAKE OVER CHALLENGE
Sandwell Council Cabinet
(16 - 27 November 2015)
Young people take over the cabinet meeting at Sandwell Council

SHAPE OUR FUTURE CONFERENCE
(26 November 2015)
Child’s Voice Conference
you said...

Young people wanted more police presence, CCTV and lighting in parks to feel safer when out in the evenings.

A greater awareness of child sexual exploitation (CSE) and controlling relationships in schools and social media would better educate young people on the subject.

we did...

• Sandwell College have installed a metal detector
• Given Neighbourhood Police contact details to all primary/secondary schools
• Delivered activity programme during the summer holidays

2014
28% felt safe in their local area - home and school
75.1% turn to parents for support
8.1% turn to teachers for support

2015
28% worried about crime
46% worried about being bullied
40% worried about being targeted by gangs
10% carry a weapon for protection
95.7% want more internet safety education

What would make your area a better place to live in?

Have you ever carried a weapon to protect yourself?
2014
49% play sport on evenings or weekends
Relationships (27%) and stress (20.3%) are the biggest health concerns for 13 and above

2015
11% said yes to drugs with 4.6% taking drugs more than three times a week
46% would like to receive more information on relationships and 38% on handling feelings

you said...
Young people wanted more opportunities to get fit and engage in physical activities, especially during the summer, such as football, canoeing, camping, cycling etc.

School nurses should be used more, especially regarding mental health, asthma and weight management.

we did...
• Held a SHAPE Youth Festival in 2015 and will continue annually to encourage outdoor activity
• Ensured all students know their school nurse and how to contact them
• Invested in more green gyms in parks
you said...

Young people wanted better communication and marketing of activities that were available to them. They also wanted better parks and more of them.

They also expressed that they felt unrecognised for their talents outside of academic achievements, such as art and sports.

we did...

• Holding an annual SHAPE Your Talent show for children / young people
• Dedicate a page annually in the Sandwell Herald to advertise services for children / young people

2014

57% like to go to parks in their free time
58.5% watch TV and 51.3% play games in the evenings and weekends

2015

43% worry about schoolwork and exams
20% felt stressed and 35% felt school could help them achieve more
66% use internet for social media
Making a Positive Contribution

2014
47% want to take part in inspecting the quality of local activities/services
54% want to help decide how money is spent on activities

2015
28.9% haven’t given their ideas to their school council or youth parliament
11.6% said their ideas haven’t been listened to and 20% didn’t know if their ideas had been listened to

you said...
Young people felt adults should consider their opinions more. They stated there should be more consultation with young people through social media.

we did...
- Introduced a SHAPE Youth Forum consisting of Youth Parliament, Looked After Children’s Board, Sandwell College and school council representatives
- Promoted all Sandwell youth events through social media
- Held an annual SHAPE Our Future conference
- Increased active participation in National Takeover Day

If there are 3 things that would make your life better, what would they be?

- More help to do better at school
- More interesting lessons at school
- Less bullying
- More organised activities and things to do
- More places where I can go to spend time with my friends
- More chances to have a say in how things are run at school or in the local area
- More ways I can volunteer or help people
- More advice about being healthy
- More help to plan for my future
- More help to feel safer at school or in the local area
- Someone I can always talk to
- None of these
### Economic Wellbeing

**you said...**

Young people expressed a need for more information on apprenticeships and more support in making better career choices.

They feel Sandwell is unclean due to increase in litter and unsafe due to crime and an increase in gang culture. They expressed a wish for the negative stigma and reputation of Sandwell to change.

**we did...**

- Collated case studies from apprentices to be shared with young people

### 2014

66% found money was most important when looking for a job as well as finding one you enjoy

### 2015

- 38% worry about what to do after year 11
- 41% want to go to college
- 38% do more studying
- 30.4% get a job with training
- 70% want to go to university
- 39.7% don’t want to stay in Sandwell

### What do you think you will do when you finish year 11?

- Course in school or sixth form: 102
- Course a college or sixth form: 152
- Apprenticeship or Advanced: 15
- Job with training: 22
- Not sure yet: 79
In recognition of the work we have done in involving young people the Children's Commissioner has awarded us a gold commendation, this is the highest level that can be achieved in the new 'Up for the Challenge' accreditation scheme introduced by the Commissioner this year to recognise the organisations that take part in National Takeover Challenge.

In November Sandwell took part in National Youth Takeover Challenge, which is a national event that gives children and young people the chance to be involved in decision-making and work with adults for the day. Children benefit from the opportunity to experience the world of work and make their voices heard, while adults and organisations gain a fresh perspective on what they do.

In November, I took part in the Youth Takeover Challenge with Jyoti Atri, Director of Public Health within Sandwell Council. At the beginning of the day, I received an informative talk about the issues within Sandwell related to weight management and what the department does to decrease obesity rates within Sandwell. Once this was complete, I joined some of the Community Activity Network Development Officers (CANDOs) testing out the new rock climbing facilities at the Portway Lifestyle Centre.

Jyoti informed me about the current issues with public health in Sandwell, the causes of these issues and what she is doing to overcome these problems. We spoke about the structure of public health within Sandwell and the different aspects of the department.

Personally, I wanted to participate in the Youth Takeover Challenge as it is an amazing and educating opportunity. Once completing my university degree, I would like to go into a profession involving health and this experience allowed me to see if this would be a suitable career path for myself.

This experience has been very rewarding as it has allowed me to gain new skills which could then relate to my future career.

Moreover, the Takeover Challenge has allowed me to build relationships within the hierarchy of the Sandwell Council and also opened up a very large amount of opportunities which will benefit me currently, when applying to universities and when applying for jobs.
When young people were asked what would make them stay in Sandwell and what improvements needed to be made, this is what they said: