

Children and Young People Committee

CYP(3)-06-10 - Paper 9

23 February 2010 Evidence from Representatives of Funky Dragon

Present

Melanie Blake - Core Development Manger
Victoria Madden - Funky Dragon (Merthyr)
Jessica Simonds- School Council Representative, Funky Dragon (Conwy)

Assembly Members

Helen Mary Jones (Chair)
Ann Jones

Key themes

Transport

Live in rural area and no bus service available to access play facilities.

Need to travel into towns as there are no local play facilities.

Cost of bus fares - at the age of 15 young people are considered an adult, cannot afford the travel costs and cost of activity.

Timing of transport does not always coincide with play activities, it needs to be more flexible.

Intergenerational problems

Skate park next to a bowling club - need to consider positioning of play facilities.

It would be beneficial if there was a forum where young and old people could communicate.

In some communities young people help the old e.g. cutting grass and shopping, this encourages the relationship between the young and older generations and also diminishes stereo-typing. This should be facilitated in more areas.

Rural/regional problems

There are more sporting facilities in South Wales.

It was reported that in one area there is a policing policy which inhibits young people going out in more than a group of 3, this make playing/hanging out difficult and also stereo-types young people in large groups.

Role of schools

Young people spend a large amount of time at school and would prefer play facilities away from school premises.

Bullying/adult supervision

Very keen on adult supervision, parks can be very territorial for young people.

Less bullying if adults are around.

The supervision should be appropriate to the size of the facility i.e. need more than one person to supervise a park.

Play facilities need close monitoring as groups of young people can dominate therefore need regular supervision.

Young people could get trained to supervise, act as a role model to younger children. If the young people felt it necessary they can pass information onto a worker in charge.

Young people are more inclined to confide in their peers - supervision could mirror that of buddying system in schools.

Consulting

Local authorities need to consult with young people before planning on where to build play facilities

Councils need to talk to young people and involve them throughout the planning process. They need to listen to their voices.

Would like to have a rule that young people need to be consulted and informed of decisions made and reasons behind decisions.

Key Recommendations

Improve transport links to play facilities.

Create an interesting and simulating destination for young people to go to

Create a qualification for young people who want to learn to support their peers and become a role model. This could be an extension of the buddying system found in some schools.