

Good Scrutiny Awards 2010



Community Influence

London Borough of Enfield

In response to a spate of violent incidents resulting in the death of 5 young people in the borough Full Council approved the establishment of a Scrutiny Commission to undertake a review into life opportunities for young people. Members worked with partners and listened to the views of young people in a variety of different contexts. From this they were able to build up a comprehensive picture of how to improve the quality of life for young people in the area.

Impact

- The high profile of the review combined with its quality ensured tangible benefits for young people.
- The level of engagement with young people ensured buy-in to recommendations which led to the saving of a youth centre in a deprived area and the allocation of £278,250 of additional council and partnership funding.
- The legacy of this piece of work will be a long one with partners now working jointly as a result of the review.
- A new sense of understanding between different parts of the community has been achieved.

Why shortlisted

- This piece of work shows the dedication of all those involved to engage partners and young people which is backed up by the Full Council's faith in scrutiny's ability.
- The Commission - realising the need to understand the issue from the perspective of both service providers and young people – developed a comprehensive and innovative engagement strategy.
- A significant amount of community engagement was undertaken.
- The review helped to break down preconceptions on all sides.
- Co-opting two head teachers, the Police Borough Commander and the Head of Commissioning for Children's Services for Enfield NHS showed a commendable commitment to partnership working.

“ We were visited by the Corporate Scrutiny department and an immediate first aid package was prepared and put into action. This was at the end of 2008 and by 31.3.09 we were solvent and flourishing. ”

Jack Lyons,
Manager, Hanlon Centre

“ The quality of partnership working between scrutiny and the police has been outstanding. Crucial is the shared understanding of values in trying to improve young peoples lives. ”

Dave Osborn,
Police Superintendent