



LISTEN UP!

WE MATTER!

ABOUT YOUTH ACTION

Youth Action is an independent Community organisation working with young people aged 8 to 24 years old in Blackburn and Darwen. Youth Action was established in 2003 and now has over 180 members - and this number is growing all the time!

our aims are:

- > To offer young people activities, which motivate, educate, makes productive use of time and improves the quality of life for young people in the Community.
- > To offer activities which promote self help, empowerment and team work, which strengthens the quality of life for young people and the Community as a whole.
- > To encourage and assist young people in the area to actively participate in group activities.
- > To enhance multi-cultural understanding and mutual respect
- > To promote the views and interests of young people to official agencies and bodies with a view to enabling positive change
- > To work with young people to equip them with the skills to be effective leaders in their Communities and bring about positive Community action

For further information about Youth Action please visit our website: www.youth-action.net

INTRODUCTION

Countless Children of our Community consider that they have no say in what goes on in their Community. That is why it is necessary to get the Views of the children of different Communities from Blackburn and Darwen, to let us know what they think about the Borough, what facilities are available to them as children and what should be done to improve the standards of living in the Borough.

The aim of the project was to try and raise awareness of issues that were and are affecting children in Blackburn and Darwen. By giving the children a chance to talk about what they thought the key issues affecting them in there day-to-day life has enabled Youth Action to produce this booklet on their behalf.



During the project some of the issues raised were very similar to the issues that would have been raised by any adult, so this shows that children do have a broad understanding of general issues that are affecting them and their communities, and not just relevant to children and young people's issues.

We used the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) as a basis for our project. The UNCRC is a list of 54 rights that covers all aspects of life for all children and young people under the age of 18. One of these 54 rights is called 'Article 12' which states that 'children and young people have the right to express their opinion in any decision that will affect them. Adults should respect their views and take them into account'.



Please note this guide reflects the views of the participants of the project and are not necessarily the views of Youth Action.

MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT

The project workshops were broken down into different themes to make it interesting for the children. The themes included education, sport and entertainment. During each of the topics the children were asked about what they knew was available in their community, in relation to the three themes listed above.



EDUCATION

The children were asked to list a variety of services available to them in relation to education. They were asked to list what they think is available and what they would want to see available in the future.

WHAT'S AVAILABLE:

SCHOOLS

MUSEUM

HOME WORK SUPPORT

COMMUNITY CENTRES

YOUTH ORGANISATIONS (E.G. YOUTH ACTION)

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS



WHAT WE WANT TO SEE AVAILABLE:

MORE IT CLASSES/ SERVICES

BETTER TEACHERS

PERMANENT TEACHERS

SMALLER CLASS SIZES

FREE TUITION/ HOME WORK SUPPORT

MORE COMMUNITY LANGUAGE CLASSES

SPORT

As part of the project we encouraged healthy living & eating and all this was themed around sports. Therefore it was important that we get the views of the children on what they thought was available and what they want to see available in the future in terms of sports facilities.

WHAT'S AVAILABLE:

SWIMMING CENTRES

SOCCER DOME

CRICKET CLUBS

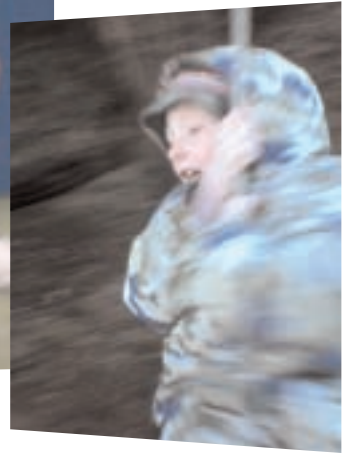
BOXING
CLASSES

TENNIS CLUBS

ATHLETIC
TRACKS

KARATE CLASSES

GOLF FACILITIES



WHAT WE WANT TO SEE AVAILABLE:

MORE FREE ACCESS FOOTBALL PITCHES
WITH AFTER DARK FREE LIGHTING

QUAD BIKING

ARCHERY

WATER SPORTS

HORSE RIDING
CLUBS

ENTERTAINMENT

Throughout the sessions the children were always asking do to something more enjoyable, so we decided to ask the children what they think is available and what they would like to see in the future.

WHAT'S AVAILABLE:

CORPORATION PARK

CINEMA

ARCADE

WITTON PARK

MELA & ARTS IN THE PARK

FOOTBALL STADIUM

SKATING

FUN FAIR



WHAT WE WANT TO SEE AVAILABLE:

BIGGER CINEMA
COMPLEX

PAINT BALL CLUBS

ARCADE FOR
CHILDREN

THEME PARK

LASER QUEST

AFFORDABLE ENTERTAINMENT OPTIONS

SNOOKER CLUB FOR CHILDREN

ACCESSIBLE
YOUTH CLUBS
FOR EVENINGS

POEMS BY CHILDREN ABOUT THE BOROUGH:

'i TRY GOING TO SLEEP BUT i CANT,
DRUNKEN MEN PASSING BY,
FIGHTS GOING ON IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT,
BURGLARY AND SOUNDS OF PEOPLE SCREAMING,
THIS ISNT WHAT YOU CALL A PROPER TOWN.
i LOVE MY TOWN AND WANNA SEE IT SHINE'

Adil (Age 12)

'IN MY DREAM i WOULD LIKE TO SEE A
BLACKBURN WITH A FIELD, WITH BIG TREES
AND FULL OF DAISIES!'

Jaffar (Age 12)



WHO TO?

During the workshops the children were asked who they would like to send this Children's Charter to, they said:-

- > THE GOVERNMENT
- > LOCAL COUNCIL
- > LOCAL MP
- > TO THE PRIME MINISTER
- > TO THE LIBRARY
- > TO SCHOOLS
- > TO THE QUEEN
- > ON TV
- > NEWSPAPER
- > INTERNET (WWW.YOUTH-ACTION.NET)
- > RADIO
- > IN SHOPS
- > TO ALL THE MILLIONS OF PARENTS
- > BLACKBURN & DARWENS MAYOR



GOOD & BAD?

After the workshops the children were asked to list the positive and negative aspects of Blackburn and Darwen. They said:

- > I LIKE THE FOOD
- > I LIKE LIVING HERE BECAUSE ALL MY FRIENDS AND FAMILY LIVE HERE
- > I LIKE IT BECAUSE THE PEOPLE ARE NICE
- > I LIKE GOING TO SCHOOL HERE
- > I LIKE IT BECAUSE IT HAS A TOWN CENTRE
- > I LIKE IT BECAUSE BLACKBURN ROVERS ARE THE BEST FOOTBALL TEAM
- > I LIKE IT AS IT HAS MANY DIFFERENT FOOD TYPES
- > I LIKE IT HERE BECAUSE I LIKE MY HOUSE
- > I LIKE IT HERE BECAUSE THERE ARE NO FIGHTS!

The things we dislike about living in Blackburn & Darwen:

- > THERE IS TOO MUCH LITTER
- > THINGS ARE TOO EXPENSIVE
- > TOO MANY CAR ACCIDENTS
- > TOO MUCH BULLYING
- > THERE ARE A LOT OF DRUG PROBLEMS
- > THERE A LOT OF BURGLARIES & CRIME
- > ROADS ARE NOT SAFE FOR CHILDREN



CHANGES...

We asked the children to list some short term and long term things they would like to see change for the better in their local area, they said:

Short term Changes

- › MORE YOUTH CLUBS
- › CHEAPER OR FREE TUITION
- › LESS SCHOOL TIME
- › BIGGER CINEMA
- › LASER QUEST
- › PAINT BALL FACILITIES
- › NEW SWIMMING POOL
- › QUAD BIKING PLACE
- › DIRT BIKING

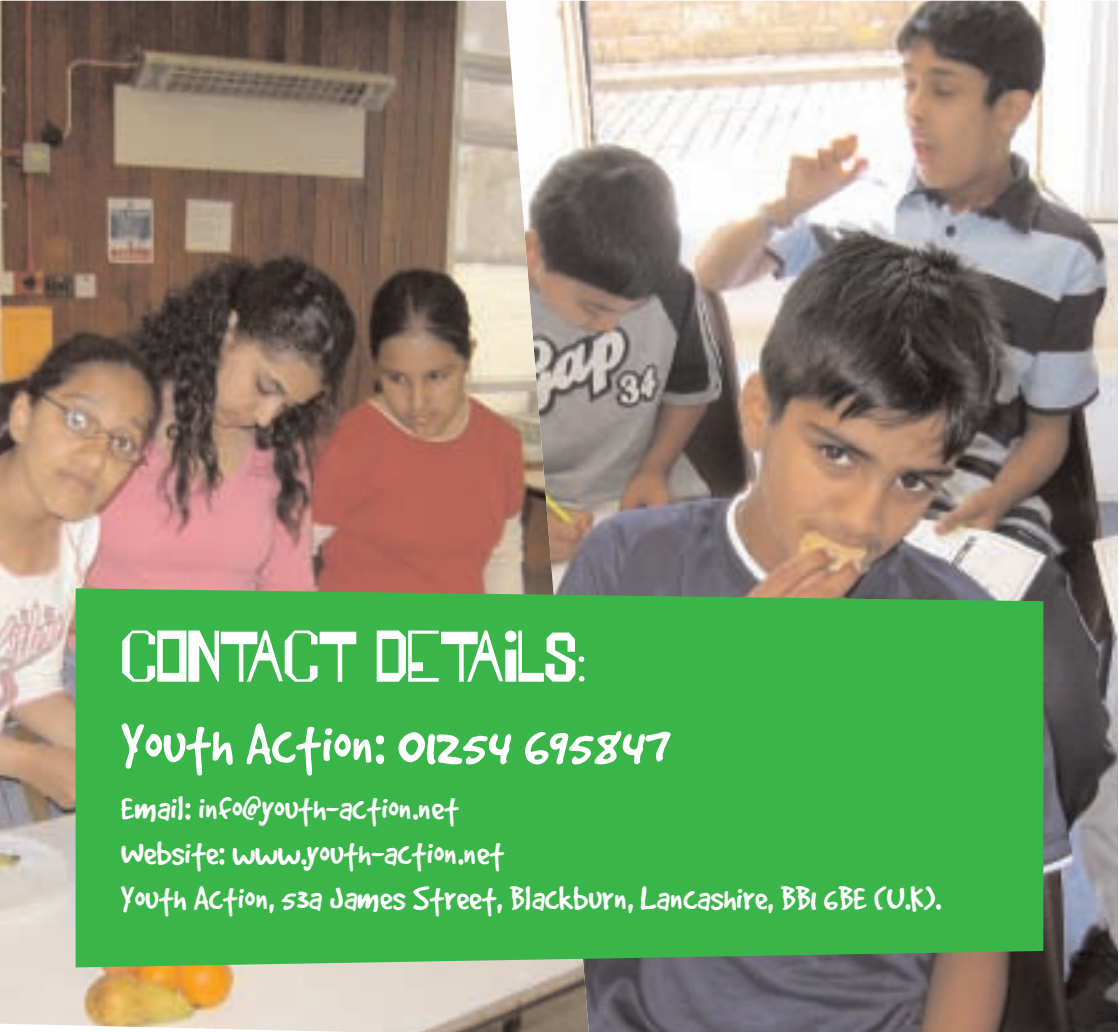


Long term Changes

- › FREE EDUCATION i.e. BOOKS, TRANSPORT, ETC.
- › HEALTHY FOOD IN SCHOOLS
- › NICE TEACHERS
- › THEME PARK IN BLACKBURN
- › FOOTBALL AND CRICKET PITCHES IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES
- › BIG SHOPPING MALL







CONTACT DETAILS:

Youth Action: 01254 695847

Email: info@youth-action.net

Website: www.youth-action.net

Youth Action, 53a James Street, Blackburn, Lancashire, BB1 6BE (U.K).



Copyright © Youth Action Ltd

Please note all rights reserved. No part of this publication may be copied or reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording or otherwise without the prior written permission of Youth Action Ltd (YA). Requests to reproduce any part of the publication should be made in writing to Youth Action, 53a James Street, Blackburn, Lancashire, BB1 6BE (U.K).

While all reasonable care has been taken in the compilation and editing of material in this publication, YA shall not be liable for any loss, howsoever rising, which is occasional to any person who places reliance upon any editorial material and in particular (but without limitation) for any loss occasioned by factual changes which have occurred since this publication went to press. YA are not responsible for the content of links & websites on the Internet advertised. Views expressed are not necessarily of YA.

Published by Youth Action Ltd. Registered in England & Wales No. 5601737. Registered office: 53a James Street, Blackburn, Lancashire, BB1 6BE (UK).

Project supported by Blackburn with Darwen Children's Fund 'Children's Chest'.