

RADE News

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A group of pupils took part in a discussion with a Rights and Diversity Education Advisor from Hampshire County Council as part of the Council's Commission of Inquiry for Hampshire 2050.

This was a great opportunity for pupils from Hamble Primary to actively participate in a large scale project to gather the views and opinions of those who live in Hampshire. It was a really meaningful way for their voices to be heard and help shape the future for those living in the county of Hampshire.

(UNCRC, Article 12)

HIAS curriculum update

Commission of Inquiry vision for Hampshire 2050

Children and young people speak up and out!

On Monday the 23 September the Commission of Inquiry for Hampshire 2050 met with councillors to present their findings and recommendations for the future of Hampshire addressing issues such as environment, housing, transport, leisure, technology and employment.

The Commission had consulted with a variety of stakeholders to inform their report and this included the children and young people of Hampshire.

Several of our children and young people were canvassed for their ideas and opinions which formed the basis of a report submitted to the commissioners: they then invited a group of children and young people to come and present a summary of this report to the commissioners in person.

They were so impressed by the young people, that they were invited to speak at the final presentation to Councillors on the 23 September event in Ashburton Hall, Winchester.

The young people who spoke up on behalf of the sample group across Hampshire schools were confident, forthright and focussed in their message to councillors and commissioners alike.

They prepared a speech that encapsulated the key themes and ideas collated from the children and young people who contributed to the Hampshire 2050 survey undertaken earlier this year across a range of primary, secondary and further education (FE) settings.

Transcript of the children and young people from Thornfield Secondary School presentation to the commission:

"With recent events in the media highlighting youth violence, for example, Jodie Chesney being stabbed whilst hanging out with friends in a children's play park: one of the issues we would like to talk about this morning is the lack of facilities available for teenagers. We need somewhere safe, affordable and easily accessible to hang out, and we need access to more information about what is available for us in our area. We think that social media could be utilised in the form of an app which lets teenagers know of places and events in their local area which are aimed at them. This would provide a focus for young people, help to keep them safe but still allow them to socialise with their peer group.

For the future, we would like to improve the environment and reduce pollution by reducing traffic on the roads. We want to see cheaper public transport that is readily available to both young and old. In future planning we would like to see more cycle paths and safer crossings on roads to encourage communities to walk and cycle more. From a young person's point of view current bus and train fares impact the choices we make for further education. These measures would improve air quality, congestion, health and activity levels and reduce traffic accidents.

We would like the council to ensure that when there is planning for new housing development in the future, these new sites have easy access to green spaces. We want our own children to be able to play outside in safe environments and to enjoy the opportunities that we have had in terms of parks, woodland and recreational areas.

As young people, we are very concerned that we will not be able to stay in our local area due to the lack of affordable housing. We would like to have more flats and apartments to rent or buy as this would lessen the impact on our green spaces. We would like the council to invest in housing association properties that are more affordable. Many elderly people occupy larger properties that may be too much for them. We think they should be offered incentives to move to smaller places and given support to do so.

To safeguard our future in Hampshire, we would like to have more information about local job opportunities. One of the ways to do this would be to have better links between schools and businesses. To increase aspiration in the younger generation we would like to know more about different careers and the various pathways into them. We need to be more informed about the world of work.

Young people have a lot to say but do not always know where to say it. We are concerned and interested in issues that will impact on our future. There needs to be a variety of different platforms which allow everyone but especially young people to have a voice, and more needs to be done to capture the diverse perspectives and views of the young people of Hampshire."

Our thanks to those schools that participated in the survey and to the children and young people who contributed so thoughtfully to the Hampshire 2050 survey with a vision for the future of our county:

- Hamble Primary School
- Langrish Primary School
- Cherbourg Primary School

- Brookhurst Primary School
- Manorfield Junior School
- Thornfield Secondary School
- Purbrook Park School
- Ringwood School
- Fernhill Secondary School
- Park Community School
- Brockenhurst FE College.

