

<b>Case Study 005</b>	<b>from <a href="http://www.communityplanning.net">www.communityplanning.net</a></b>
<i>Theme</i>	<b>Young people planning</b>
<i>Project Title</i>	<b>Leeds City Centre Area Action Plan</b>
<i>Location</i>	Leeds, Yorkshire, UK
<i>Project leader</i>	Yorkshire Planning Aid



A good example of how young people can be involved in shaping an Area Action Plan for their city centre from the early stages with few resources.

## Context

- Leeds City Council is preparing a City Centre Area Action Plan under the new UK planning system
- Consultation with all sections of the community is required by law. The Plan will take several years to prepare and the Council envisages three stages of consultation. The first stage is to ask people for their ideas on what should be in the plan
- Young people are frequently left out of such consultation
- Leeds Development Department and Yorkshire Planning Aid decided to take an initiative to ensure that young people's views are taken into account during the first and subsequent stages.

## Process

<i>Year</i>	<i>Month</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Parties involved</i>
2005	Jul Aug	<b>Planning</b>	Liaison between Yorkshire Planning Aid (YPA), Leeds Development Department (LDD), and Leeds Youth Council (LYC). LYC Executive Group agrees to devote an hour of next Youth.
2005	Sep	<b>Questionnaire</b>	Prepared by LDD. Distributed by LYC members within their schools. Results compiled by LYC members
2005	Oct	<b>Workshop: Issues and Options</b>	Part of LYC meeting on Saturday 15 October.  <b>Aim:</b> To raise initial issues and options, from young people's perspective, for the future of Leeds City Centre.  <b>Participants:</b> LYC members (32).  <b>Facilitators:</b> LDD reps (2); Leeds youth Service reps (1); YPA reps (1).  <b>Agenda:</b> 1. Introduction to Planning System by YPA 1. Explanation of City Centre Area Action Plan by LDD 1. Group work. Participants identify: a) What is good about city centre a) What should be improved for young people 1. Feedback session 1. Agreement of next steps Six volunteers identified to form a Planning Sub-Group of the Youth Council and continue working with LDD on the Action Plan.
2005	Nov Dec	<b>Alternative options paper</b>	Suggestions from the questionnaire and workshop considered by LDD and council members alongside those from a wide range of other groups and individuals. Results incorporated into an Alternative Options paper.
2006	Jan		
2006	Feb	<b>Review session</b>	YPA gives update at LYC meeting to explain what stage the plan is at and how some of the issues raised by the young people are reflected in the LDD's Alternative Options paper. Youth Council agrees to hold a sub-group workshop on the Alternative Options paper.
2006	Mar Apr		
2006	May	<b>Workshop: Alternative Options</b>	With small sub-group from Youth Council (4). Session led by YPA rep, with support from LDD Officer
2006	Jun/ Oct	<b>Preferred Options paper</b>	Responses from workshop considered by LDD in preparing a Preferred Options paper. Feedback from young people's workshop features on Leeds Council website.

## Outcomes

### Successes

- Incorporation of young people's ideas and suggestion in the first two drafts of the Area Action Plan for Leeds City Centre. Views of 262 young people obtained.
- Establishment of mechanism for further involvement by young people in Development Plan documents.
- Provided young people with an insight into the Development Plan process (one expressed a desire to pursue a career in planning).

### Shortcomings

- Young people's views on the Alternative Options paper were presented as a separate feedback document rather than integrated into a mainstream response document.
- The sub-group looking at the Area Action Plan has not been established formally by the Youth Council, and subsequently has had low attendance.

## Parties involved

<i>Party</i>	<i>Role</i>
<b>Leeds Youth Council</b> <b><a href="http://www.leedsyouthcouncil.com">www.leedsyouthcouncil.com</a></b>	Co-ordination of young people
<b>Leeds Development Department</b> <b><a href="http://www.leeds.gov.uk">www.leeds.gov.uk</a></b>	Drafting Area Action Plan. Support for consultation process.
Yorkshire Planning Aid <b><a href="http://www.planningaid.rtpi.org.uk">www.planningaid.rtpi.org.uk</a></b>	Facilitation of process.

## Funding and resources

- No significant costs involved or budgets available
- Planning Aid services provided free

## Special features

### Planning aid key role in facilitation

The presence of Yorkshire Planning Aid helped ensure that feedback was given to the young people at appropriate stages and enabled them to maintain links with a process that is inevitably long and drawn out. With membership of the Youth Council constantly changing, there is a need at each meeting to brief young people on what has happened before, and remind them of prior comments.

## Photographs

Workshop session during Leeds Youth Council meeting to raise initial issues and options, from young people's perspective, on the future of Leeds City Centre. 15 October 2005.



*Leeds Youth Council  
01.jpg*



*Leeds Youth Council  
02.jpg*



*Leeds Youth Council  
03.jpg*

## Documents

Download from website at: <http://www.communityplanning.net/casestudies/005/10docs/index.htm>

1. Workshop Summary 15 October 2005
2. Questionnaire Summary Sheet; results of survey of 262 young people, 2005.
3. Leeds Youth Council Comments from October Workshop linked to Alternative Options Paper
4. Leeds City Centre Area Action Plan Update, Yorkshire Planning Aid, February 2006
5. Leeds Youth Council Responses to Alternative Options Paper, May 2006
6. Involving Young People in the Planning System, Yorkshire Planning Aid project report, July 2006

## Reviews/comments

'All the agencies involved felt that this had been a very positive session, and were delighted with the interest shown by the young people. The opinions of young people are often overlooked, but even in this short introductory session the planners at the event agreed that a number of very relevant issues had been raised.'

**Involving Young People in the Planning System, Yorkshire Planning Aid project report, 2006**

## Contacts and links

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