

## HOW YOUNG PEOPLE GET INVOLVED IN YOUR BIG LOCAL AREA

Here are some of the ways that the Big Local areas attending today's event have involved young people in activities and projects.

- Youth Clubs and events funded by and organised by Big Local.
- Working with Big Local as mentors, reporters and workers.
- Getting involved with multimedia evaluation project.
- Youth Forum – children and young people volunteer group set up an information board to ensure direct involvement.
- Partnership Board – young person elected member and more will follow.
- Involvement in developing local parks /outdoor gym.
- Craft group in summer activities.
- Bake off to raise own money for sweet shop.
- Big Lunch with children cooking.
- Community Chest panel.
- Book swap and reading shed.
- Early Years intervention and Learning Bugs workshops.
- Comic Art club creating a comic book.

### KEY POINTS FOR INVOLVING YOUNG PEOPLE IN BIG LOCAL

- ✓ Focus on the things they are interested in.
- ✓ Offer a wide range of activities.
- ✓ You will need energy, commitment and skill.
- ✓ It can help to make projects time limited and focused.
- ✓ Young people can become ambassadors and champions among their peers and in the community.



The roving reporters for today's event were:

Courtney Wills, Katie Lawrence and Angel Alvey.

Thank you for getting involved.



Event newsletter produced by Big Local young reporters



# YOUNG PEOPLE AT THE HEART OF BIG LOCAL

Thank you for attending this event today at St Martin's Community Centre in Allenton, Derby. We hope you have enjoyed finding out more about how some of the organisations in this area are putting young people at the heart of Big Local by listening and responding to them and supporting their participation. The content of this newsletter has been gathered by young roving reporters during the event. We hope it will prove a useful reminder of the day's activities.

## THE DNA OF THE ENTHUSIASM TRUST

This morning, Joe Russo, Founder of the Enthusiasm Trust, talked about the organisation's DNA and what Enthusiasm has learned during 25 years of working with young people. Here's a reminder of the things that make up Enthusiasm's DNA:



**A TEAM** young people know and trust as family

**INVESTED** - taking ownership together for the community

**LEGACY** – building something bigger than ourselves

**ROOTED** - in community understanding of what is happening

**DISCIPLESHIP** – I do it, you watch; you do it, I watch; you do it

**FRESH** – fun and exciting, creative and innovative: everyone wants to be there.



## Understanding what matters to young people

In the group discussions that took place just before lunch, you discussed how you know what young people’s most pressing issues are locally, how you respond effectively to young people and involve them in decision making, and what makes good youth work in our neighbourhoods and communities. It’s a huge subject, but here are a few of the things that you discussed:

- Big Kirk Hallam has a book swap and reading shed where people bring old books and swap them with another one. The reading shed encourages the value of reading.
- A Big Camp out in partnership with local schools give children a chance to experience the outdoors and team building exercises.
- Credit Union savings scheme to encourage children to save for the future.
- Grandparents lunches at the school with traditional Sunday lunch on a Friday. Sharing time with grandparents and socialising with different age groups.
- Talk to lots of people to get their opinion even if not all of them are ultimately involved in the decision making.
- Asking young people what they want is important. Involve them in decision making. Don’t impose your own ideas on them.
- It’s definitely not all about meetings. Many Big Local areas work with schools and speak to young people at community events to get their views.



### What are the challenges?

- Finding out what young people want and what will interest them.
- Young people aren’t usually rushing to join the partnership group.
- Finding ways to connect with young people can be difficult as they may not understand what Big Local is.
- Time is an issue. Young people are busy at school .
- Young people don’t like meetings so you have to be creative and find other ways of getting them involved and giving them information.
- Getting access to the young people. This is best done by partnering with schools and youth organisations.

### What you’ve learned today?

- We have to build for the future. In 15 years time young people might be doing what staff in organisations such as Enthusiasm are doing now.
- You need to connect with a lot of young people and make things happen and then a few of them might get involved at a deeper level.
- Need to offer lots of different ways to reach the varied interest of young people.
- It is not just about the activities themselves. The knock on effect of things like dance lessons are that young people can learn about healthy eating, get exercise and build their self-confidence through performance.



We hope you enjoyed visiting St Martin’s Community Centre today. Thanks for bearing with us and working around the work in progress. If you would like to keep updated on the project go to [facebook.com/AllentonBigBuild](https://www.facebook.com/AllentonBigBuild).

“We realised children needed a new and exciting way to read, so we thought –why not read in a shed?”