

loudspeaker



Young NCB members magazine | Issue 5 | April 2003

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national
children's
bureau
making a difference

don't miss your chance to speak out on issues that interest, annoy or puzzle you on the ever-expanding your shout!

the ncb voice

making a difference

Eamonn Wilkinson wrote about the Galliagh festival that he is involved with in Derry, Northern Ireland in the last issue of *Loudspeaker*. Here he updates us on what's been going on.

In my community there's an underpass that's been a black spot for ages – it was really run down and no-one wanted to use it. So, the Galliagh/Camhill Underpass Project was planned to improve the underpass. The project also gave young people in the area a chance to get artistic and work with top class artists The Bogside Artists to create a unique piece of art in our community. In total more than 60 young people and 20 volunteers from all kinds of youth and community groups in the area have been involved from taking part in design workshops right through to painting during the horrible winter weather. We're really proud of what we've achieved.

...and so they should be!



'It wasn't like that in my day'

Ever heard that comment from parents, relatives or their friends? I know I have. Well, as part of NCB's 40th birthday celebrations, we're trying to find out what it really means and what it's like to grow up today as compared with 40 years ago. We'd like you to send in your comments, memories, poems or thoughts – whatever you think is interesting – so that we can publish a collection of your contributions.

Were your parents or grandparents born in a different country but you were born in the UK? Did your parents or grandparents live in the countryside but you live in a town and city? What affect has TV, media, computers, changes in eating habits, family life and education had on being a child?

Let us know what you think it's like in 'your day' by sending your contributions to info@youngncb.org.uk or posting it to Young NCB, 8 Wakley Street, London, EC1V 7QE

Loudspeaker is getting better all the time. This time there was so much to put in we had to cram it all in – and I'm sure we missed a few things out. This spring Young NCB has been busy with talks, projects and a great residential weekend – you'll find reports of all of them here. And Young NCB members are still involved with loads of other things that you can read about.

It's now a year since the Young NCB advisory group started work and on page 3 you'll see that they are going to start looking for some new group members. If you're interested don't forget to get in touch to find out more.

We've got a couple of articles this issue from Young NCB members telling us about what they're up to in their local communities. Some news from Eamonn Wilkinson from Derry, Northern Ireland about an arts project there, and an amazing story from Sarah Roberts in Buxton, Derbyshire about a project to help homeless people that she has

organised on her own. Sarah, you should be really proud of what you've done.

Don't forget *Loudspeaker* gives you a chance to tell thousands of people what you're doing. There are 3000 *Loudspeakers* printed each time but loads more people read it right across the country.

Well done to the winners of the first Irn-Bru competition. There's another chance to win goodie bags, just take a look at the back page and get your answers to us by Friday 23 May. While you're there, check out some of the things Young NCB has got planned in the coming months.

Thanks to everyone who helped to make this issue of *Loudspeaker* happen. If you have any ideas for future issues or suggestions for improvements, just let us know on 020 7843 6099/6067 or email info@youngncb.org.uk

Rachel

Rachel Monaghan
Young NCB Coordinator



Young NCB is the free membership network for all children and young people run by NCB.

As a member of Young NCB, you have the chance to speak out on the issues you feel most strongly about such as safety, sex and relationships, schools and education, bullying, drugs and media.

At Young NCB your views really count and will be heard by other children and young people, professionals and policy makers.

For more information and a free joining pack visit www.youngncb.org.uk, e-mail: info@youngncb.org.uk or call 020 7843 6099/67





advisory group

wanna lead the pack?

In the February half-term holiday the Young NCB advisory group met to talk about plans for the Don't Judge a Book by its Cover event (have a look on the back page in the What's Coming Up section) and to discuss the future of the advisory group itself.

The advisory group has been going in its present form for about a year now and it's the group who make the

decisions about what Young NCB does. There are 13 members and 4 of them are Young NCB's representatives on NCB's Board of Management (that's the group who make the decisions about what the adult side of NCB does!)

It was decided that it's time to get some new members for the advisory group as some people are getting a bit old (!!) or have other things to do now. If you're interested in finding out more about what it means to be on the advisory group read below.

What does the advisory group do?

The group guides, directs and plans the work of Young NCB. It also supports the four Young NCB representatives on the NCB Board.

How does it do that?

The group meets six times a year to talk about issues, plan activities and help the Board representatives prepare for their meetings.

When does it meet?

The meetings are held in school holidays or at the weekend. The group also keeps in contact by mail, email and phone between meetings with support from Young NCB staff.

What does an advisory group member have to do?

A group member must be committed to attend as many meetings as they can. They must be prepared to work as part of the advisory group team to support the Young NCB representatives on the NCB Board.

I'm interested. What do I do?

If after all that you're still interested, get in touch with us by calling 020 7843 6099/6067 or email info@youngncb.org.uk for an application form. Remember to do this quickly as applications need to be in by 30 May 2003.

Anything else?

They must also be ready to feedback and share information on the advisory group's meetings to all Young NCB members. And they might be invited to attend other NCB events if they're interested.

Who can be an advisory group member?

Anyone who is a member of Young NCB can apply to become an advisory group member.

Who will choose the new advisory group members?

Some of the existing group will choose with support from Young NCB staff.

Will it cost me anything?

Young NCB will pay for your travel expenses wherever you live and provide refreshments for all advisory group meetings.

giving us a voice

Young NCB is always looking for new ways to be seen and heard by potential new members, schools, and anyone else that's interested. Now, thanks to some members who made the Young NCB Giving us a Voice video, we'll be fighting people off!

Filmed entirely on location (well in East London and at NCB) with a cast of thousands (well about 16 or so), the video is a great way to introduce people to Young NCB – what it does, what people get from it, what we hope to do in the future – using only the faces and voices of its members. Mohammed Fajolu, one of the stars, said, 'I thought it was well edited because it presented our views and it didn't cut out any of the important bits that we said. I think it really represented the fact that we wanted to talk about Young NCB's achievements ... the fact that it helps us to portray our views and stuff.'

And the video certainly got everyone talking at its premiere last November at the NCB Annual General Meeting. This meeting is held once a year for all members of NCB. Jack Sharp and Louise Longa, two of the Young NCB Board representatives, were at the meeting and really made their mark. The film took everyone by storm and Louise and Jack were on hand to answer everyone's questions brilliantly. Next time it's straight to the Oscars!

Young NCB would like to thank Fiona and Alex at Red, a London based production company, for their help editing the video.

'We enjoyed ourselves making it and had the opportunity to say what we felt was good about Young NCB. I think people really do benefit from Young NCB. Looking at this video – it's another achievement.'

What happened next?

sex and drugs – the links explored

In our last *Loudspeaker*, Natalie Young and Sarah Roberts talked about their involvement with NCB's SADLE project, that looks at how drugs and alcohol can affect young people's sexual behaviour. Well, since the summer lots more consultations have been done with lots of young people as well as professionals, policy makers and others. The project workers certainly learned a lot from talking to young people. One thing that stood out for them was that most of the young people said it was the first time they had been given the opportunity to explore these issues, especially without being given negative messages. The findings from all the consultations will be published in a small book later on this year.

taking action



'On my first trip to London last year I was so shocked by the number of homeless people I saw – especially young people – I decided to do something about it.'

Young NCB member Sarah Roberts writes about what she's up to in Buxton, Derbyshire.

Last November I came down to London to work on the SADLE project with NCB (see the update above). While I was here I noticed how many homeless people there were and, in particular, how many young people there were living on the streets. I was so shocked by this that I wanted to do something about it when I got back to Buxton, where I live. I started to plan things and had loads of ideas about how I could help homeless people. One was to open a soup kitchen to feed people but I was too young for that as I'm only 15.

Now I've had an even better idea that I think will raise a lot of money and awareness. I'm going to sleep on the streets of Buxton for 24 hours to raise money. All the money we make will go to homeless and vulnerably housed young people in the High Peak area (that's where Buxton is). Every week there have been two or three young people coming into our local Info Shop with problems about homelessness, so it's a real problem here and not just in London. I'll be sleeping outside on 24 and 25 April with two youth workers – Pam and Heather – and six other members of our youth group.

young support workers

Young NCB has been working with the YPIC project (Young People's Involvement and Consultation) on a pilot scheme to train a number of young people to support – and eventually plan and deliver – conferences and events. Natasha Hamilton is one of the first Young Support Workers.

I first began working with NCB on the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy part of YPIC. Then I heard that Young NCB wanted to train young people to help out at their events. It sounded perfect for me. It would be an opportunity for me not just to work with young people, but also to learn new skills about youth working in the process.

So far there has been one training session: Young Support Worker. It was a lot of fun. We began with some induction games, like the one where you get together in pairs, tell your partner a story, and then your partner has to tell it back to the rest of the group. Then the training began, and it included some advice on how to make people feel comfortable at an event. This bit was really useful. It was things

like if you see someone standing on their own at an event, go up to them and get chatting about what's going on today. I'm looking forward to putting that kind of thing into practice.

There are two more stages to the training planned. In the second stage we will learn about group working skills to become Young Facilitators. And the final stage is where we will learn how to plan and deliver events as Young Planners.

I had a great time at the training, and I've got the YPIC project to thank for that. If I hadn't done that, I probably wouldn't have said anything at the training event, or I might not have gone at all. I used to be scared of what people might think of me. But since I've started working with YPIC, I've realised that it doesn't really matter what other people think of you; it's how you feel about yourself that's important.

At the moment I'm studying beauty therapy at college, as it's always been my ambition to become a beauty therapist. But I'd also like to do some youth work when I'm older – and my work with YPIC and Young NCB is giving me just the experience I need.



breaking the chain

For many years Northern Ireland has been the scene of ongoing tension between the Catholic and Protestant communities, which has often led to violence and bloodshed. Since the Good Friday Agreement in 1998 the two communities have worked towards peace, but religious prejudice – known as ‘sectarianism’ – remains on both sides.

In autumn last year NCB organised a series of talks with young people from Catholic, Protestant and integrated schools in the Northern Ireland town of Omagh, on how they feel about growing up in a divided society. The young people presented their findings at NCB’s Northern Ireland conference in November.

Below, Young NCB member Kevin McElroy tells us how it went.

I wasn’t sure how we were going to get on at the joint talkshop, as there were people from both communities and I thought it would be a bit tense. But right away, we really clicked. We talked about ideas for integrating different communities and combating sectarianism. I suggested that this should start with the family. Your parents are a major influence on you, and if you’ve grown up with certain attitudes it’s hard to break the chain. Parents should encourage children to be open-minded.

We also did a role play, where we enacted various different roles that we associated with Protestants or Catholics. What struck me was how difficult we found it to portray someone from the ‘other’ community. Those of us from a Catholic background, for example, didn’t know how to pretend to be a Protestant

because we don’t know how they feel about things – and vice versa. In the end it came down to stereotypes. We found that most of our ideas about the ‘other’ community came from things we’d seen on the TV.

I was one of six young people who had to present the talkshop findings at the NCB conference. It went brilliantly. Everyone was really friendly and we had a lot of people approaching us to tell us that the young people’s presentation was the best bit.

Best of all, the whole experience helped young people from both communities come together. There were no barriers between us at all. It helped us realise that at the end of the day we’re all just the same – we’re all just 16- to 17-year-olds who enjoy hanging out with their mates and going out in the evenings.



your shout!

This is what young people from Omagh had to say about growing up in a divided society:

On school:

‘When we travel to school, the uniform identifies you ... this makes you afraid sometimes.’

‘The uniform we wear, fair enough, tells people what you are, but not who you are. People make assumptions depending on where you live, and going to school is a problem.’

On socialising:

‘When you are out at Utopia, you are always aware that you are a Catholic in a club where there are far more Protestants ... although that is changing a wee bit now.’

On challenging sectarianism:

‘Keep integration going, both primary and secondary level so people can start integration from a young age and can grow knowing about another religion except their own and be able to accept all beliefs.’

Have your shout:

go to www.youngncb.org.uk/yourshout or email yourshout@youngncb.org.uk



SEX an

Welcome to the YPIC pages! YPIC is a project run by NCB for the Teenage Pregnancy Unit (TPU) – want to know who that is?

The YPIC project (it stands for Young People's Involvement and Consultation) talks to young people like you about your attitudes towards relationships, contraception, SRE and that sort of thing. The idea being that the people at the TPU listen to what you're saying and look to see if that matches what they've planned for the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy. Wondering what that is? Then read on ... The YPIC also helps young people to talk to Government, and to tell them about the things that matter and to advise them on what should be done.

The Young People's Forum (YPF) has been set up by YPIC. Members come from Cornwall, Hartlepool, Coventry, Birmingham and East London. The YPF meets for workshops (like the one written about here), talks at conferences and takes part in residencies.

Why is there a Teenage Pregnancy Strategy?

The Government has written a Teenage Pregnancy Strategy because young people who have babies early find it difficult to stay on at school, get a job or find somewhere to live.

We know that young parents love their babies and want to do what's best for them but it isn't easy with little money, no job and no where decent to live.

The UK has more than double the number of teenage parents than Germany, three times more than France and six times more than the Netherlands.

What is the Teenage Pregnancy Unit?

The TPU is based in the Department of Health and has the job of coordinating the national Teenage Pregnancy Strategy.

What does the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy aim to do?

The Teenage Pregnancy Strategy aims to half the rate of under-18 teenage pregnancies by 2010, and to increase the participation of teenage parents in education, training or employment to 60 per cent by 2010. The strategy is about supporting boys and girls to make safe choices.

On a sunny Saturday in February, 18 young people from YPIC's Young People's Forum met in a posh hotel in London to make a video. With a focus on sexual health, the video is designed to help all sorts of people who work in health services provide better support and services to young people. Ricky, Jermaine and Eugene all travelled down from Birmingham to take part in the day.

We are from Lordswood Boys' School in Harborne, Birmingham, which has about 800 pupils. We are very lucky to have such a wide variety of young people in our multicultural school, but in an all boys school it's easy only to see things from our point of view. That's why our school tries to encourage opportunities to meet other people (especially girls!). So we were really pleased to be invited to join the Forum in London. We had been involved in a similar meeting last year in Birmingham organised by the NCB.

At school we have recently been involved in a sexual health road show day where we met ex-drug users, local police, health professionals and a brilliant group called Loudmouth Theatre Company who performed

Nat, Ben and baby Jack. This was an amazing account of a young couple that went through the issues of teenage pregnancy, childbirth and later the difficulties faced with bringing up a baby. It was a powerful message and made us lads really think! Because of this, we jumped at the chance to carry on thinking about these issues at the Forum meeting.

It was awful getting up so early on Saturday morning but we all managed it. The train journey gave us the chance to do some last minute reading on the day's events and we arrived nervous but quite excited. Ricky kept his Blues scarf on for comfort and reassurance that part of Birmingham was still with him! As the day wore on we became more comfortable and enjoyed ourselves.

We started the day introducing ourselves. That was embarrassing and we were all dreading doing our bit! Then we were introduced to the cameras. It was awesome being filmed, and in front of the lens our nerves about working with strangers went away a bit! We were filmed as we worked in teams doing exercises like building a tower with newspaper, designing posters and finally acting out a role play – all about advice and support about sexual health and teenage pregnancy. Ricky played an uncaring doctor who dealt badly with a young teenage girl who wanted to



d stuff!

go on the pill – at least he partly removed his Birmingham scarf for that!

One of the issues raised was how we could improve services. Doing a role-play to show those situations was a real challenge and made everyone talk about how when you go to a centre for help or advice it should be friendly, welcoming and comfortable: perhaps with music playing. It should also be open at times suited to young people, be easy to find, and it should be an environment where people can feel at ease regardless of their culture, religion or family status. We also thought people working there should probably have some understanding of where young people in this situation were coming from: maybe even youngsters themselves who have had similar problems.

Confidentiality was a major issue and we felt that it was important young people can talk freely no matter what the problem is without the fear of it going any further. Another important thing was being able to go to a place where young people are not stereotyped. There is an assumption that all young people who go to centres like this are either pregnant or have an STI. We thought this was wrong. When we were asked how clinics or advice centres could be advertised, one really good suggestion was schools should

arrange trips for young people to visit the centre as part of their PSHE. The health road show day in our school is much more than lots of schools do!

We enjoyed the team activities the most, as it was very helpful to see other people's points of view and to share experiences. We also enjoyed masses of chicken wings at lunchtime – they were great!

When we gathered together after lunch and after the filming, we put together all our thoughts in a main group discussion and it was clear things need to change. We also felt at the end of the day that although progress needs to be made regarding the issue of teenage pregnancy, it must be a priority for young people to be supported far more when the situation of pregnancy arises. As it is hard for a young person to bring up a child by themselves, more support needs to be given and less judgements made.

We felt as a group it would be great to come back to Birmingham and start a steering group for these issues. We are thinking about perhaps working with existing organisations within Birmingham to raise awareness and give more support to young people in our area and perhaps joining together with other schools to support the work of NCB.

How does the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy plan to meet its aims?

The Teenage Pregnancy Strategy has four main areas of work:

1. Joined up action

To help the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy to meet its aims, different sections of the Government have to work together both locally and nationally – education, health and social services are all involved in the Strategy.

Locally, each area of England has a Teenage Pregnancy Coordinator who works out what is going to happen in that part of the country. There are 150 Local Coordinators in total.

2. A National Campaign

You might have seen examples of the National Campaign run for the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy in magazines such as *Sugar*, *Mizz* or even in the toilets in McDonalds! The campaign included posters and adverts giving advice on how to deal with the pressures to have sex and the importance of using contraception.

3. Better Prevention

The Teenage Pregnancy Strategy has lots of ideas about preventing teenage pregnancy including: making sure that sex and relationships education in schools is better; making contraception easier to get; and improving sexual health services so that young people feel happier about using them.

Every area has produced publicity leaflets about local services to help all young people know where to go for help and advice. The Strategy also has a telephone helpline called Sexwise (0800 282930) which can answer young people's questions about sex and pregnancy, and give details of local services.

4. Better Support

The Strategy aims to support young people who do become parents to help them get back into learning or work to reduce the risk of isolation and poverty. This includes the provision of personal advisers to support teenage parents with issues around parenting and budgeting and to help them access education and affordable childcare. Lone young parents who cannot stay at home or live with their partners will also be offered housing with support, to help them get back on their feet.

If you're interested in finding out more about the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy you can look at www.teenagepregnancyunit.gov.uk

If you want some advice or information on anything to do with sex, relationships or health then try looking at www.ruthinking.gov.uk or www.wiredforhealth.gov.uk

In the next *Loudspeaker*, YPF members will tell you more about the residential they took part in this spring.



citizenship in schools – what? how? why?!

Some of you will have been learning about Citizenship at school since September last year. But do you know what it is? And why you're doing it?

Young NCB members decided to find out for real what young people's views were on this new National Curriculum subject – and what it means to them in and out of the classroom. So we constructed a survey for you to have your say on this issue. The good news is that almost 400 young people around the country filled it in, which shows how important young people think it is to try and understand what Citizenship is. The full results can be found on our website at www.youngncb.org.uk or call 020 7843 6099/6067 for a copy.

This isn't the end of the work though. The Young NCB advisory group are going to look through the results together and see what Young NCB can do with your views. We'll let you know what the plan is.

your shout!

Here are just some of your views from the survey

What do you think Citizenship is?

To set people off into the society with a basic knowledge of the world and the way to be a good citizen.

To teach you to grow up a good person and not to let down car tyres and vandalise walls/cars.

I think it is to help young people learn about political, social and moral issues as well as develop skills to participate in affairs that affect them personally, within their local community and around the world.

Good idea then?

I think it's important because we need to learn about all the politics, money and parliament for when we are older.

Citizenship is quite important to me because it is good to be a good citizen and to learn how to take good care of the community.

participation fund



A new Fund will be launched by the Government's Children and Young People's Unit in April to enable children and young people to participate in activities which focus on issues which are important to them. This could be related to issues within their local community, or further afield. Funding will cover items such as delegate fees and travel to

the venue. Further details will be available on the CYPU website at www.cypu.gov.uk

Alternatively, contact Natasha Monk (020 7273 5331) or Paul Omasoro (020 7273 5321)

The aims of the Children and Young People's Unit are:

- influencing policy in the interest of children and young people
- making children and young people's services preventative not reactive
- being a centre of expertise on helping children and young people achieve positive outcomes
- ensuring children and young people are involved in developing the services they use.

young people to parliament

Over 70 young people made their way through the foggy streets of London to Parliament a couple of months ago to put some tough questions to a panel of ministers, MPs and young people. Young NCB members were there – asking some killer questions as usual! A huge range of topics was covered including:

- If young people can't vote until they're 18, then why should they have to pay tax?
- How come lots of people have to pay adult fare over the age of 16 but they are not considered an adult in other things?



- Why is it only team sports that are taught at school? This means that fewer people carry on sport when they leave school and that disabled children at school often can't take part.
- Why are there plans to teach refugee children separately from other children? It's not right.
- Young people who are leaving care are not given enough support or money to make sure that they make a success of independent living. Why aren't they being helped properly?

John Denham, former Minister for Young People, came for part of the discussion and although he didn't have time to answer everyone's questions, he's been given a massive list of burning issues. Check out www.explore.parliament.uk for a guide to Parliament.

get away from it all

Young NCB joined with the Young People's Involvement and Consultation (YPIC) project to hold a weekend residential for 25 young people at the beginning of March. Participants came from far and wide – including Northern Ireland – giving the event a real feel of Young NCB's spread. The group travelled to Edale in Derbyshire and stayed at The Peak Centre, a residential centre that's specially run for young people.

Most Young NCB members are used to spending just a few hours together when they come to talks. Having a whole two days together was a good chance for everyone to relax, have fun and make new friends, as well as doing some really interesting work. The idea was to go somewhere with few outside distractions and that was certainly the case. There was no mobile phone coverage which was a shock to some and even kept a few people away (heh, Mohammed F?!). And the rain and wind that battered the centre for most of the weekend meant we were all inside – no chance even to meet the sheep.

The focus of the weekend's work was perceptions and images of young people. These are issues that Young NCB is planning to work on in the months leading up to its Don't Judge a Book by its Cover event in October (see page 12). And how young people are judged – particularly when using services like health clinics – was one of the main topics for the YPIC day on 1 February (see pages 6 & 7).

Spike came from Liverpool to the residential. Here's what he thought about it:

Just writing to give you a brief idea of what I thought of The Peak Centre, its activities, the workshops and the countryside. It was a shame we had to miss out on the orienteering and the night walking (the weather was just too bad). The climbing wall was really good and archery was pretty good too. I liked playing 5-a-side football and the ping pong tournament was cool. Getting here on Friday was a bit of a pain because everyone arrived late but the food the cook made kept us going. I would do the weekend again and next time I would try to organise loads of outside activities like horse riding, abseiling and hiking. A good weekend overall.

listen

This poem was read by Amy Ashton from Walton High School at NCB's Peer Support Conference.

When I ask you to listen to me
And you start giving advice,
You have not done what I asked.

When I ask you to listen to me
And you begin to tell me why I shouldn't feel that way
You are trampling on my feelings.

When I ask you to listen to me
And you feel you have to do something to solve my problem,
Then you have failed me, strange as it may seem.

Listen! All I asked was that you listen,
Not talk or do – just hear me.
Advice is cheap; 10 cents will get you both Dear Abby and Billy Graham in the same newspaper.
And I can do for myself; I'm not helpless.
Maybe discouraged and faltering, but not helpless.

When you do something for me that I can and need to do for myself, you contribute to my fear and weakness.

But, when you accept as a simple fact that I do feel what I feel, no matter how irrational, then I can stop trying to convince you and get on with the business of understanding what's behind this irrational feeling.
And when that's clear the answers are obvious and I don't need advice. Irrational feelings make sense when we understand what's behind them.

Perhaps that's why prayer works, sometimes, for some people, because God is mute, and he doesn't give advice or try to fix things. He just listens and lets you work it out for yourself.

So, please listen and just hear me. And, if you want to talk, wait a minute for your turn; and I'll listen to you.

Anonymous

Peer support projects in schools give students the chance to offer help and support to fellow students by setting up projects run by and for children and young people with adult supervision. The Peer Support Forum is a national support network for schools that run peer support projects. For more information call Simon Blake on 020 7843 1160 or email sblake@ncb.org.uk





it's time for us to be heard

your shout!

Do you think it's right for parents to smack their children? Here's a selection of opinions from people who answered the questionnaire.

It depends. At times children do deserve – that is a way of discipline but the majority of times there are other ways to resolve the situation.

It depends. Smacking should be seen as the last resort and it should be done lightly.

No, because when they hit their child and it grows up, then the child starts to use violence towards other children.

No, because they're just a child. Obviously children are supposed to do wrong things.

No, because adults don't get smacked.

Yes, if it is done at the right times it is an effective form of discipline and teaches children to respect their parents and learn from their mistakes.

Yes, because children will be naughty otherwise.

If parents think they should or shouldn't it's up to them, but I'm not sure.

***Have your shout:
go to www.youngncb.org.uk/yourshout
or email yourshout@youngncb.org.uk***

Smacking – decided Young NCB members – is a really difficult issue but it's one worth talking about. In January, 16 members attended a talkshop to put together a questionnaire to find out what other young people think about smacking. Laureene Ndagire lets us in on what went on.

We decided to begin by introducing ourselves. But this time, the introduction was different ... everyone had to attach something to his or her name. We had people like Energetic Emma, Nice Natasha, Kind Kimberly, Groovy Georgia, Lovely/Lively Laureene, Magnificent Mohammed ... the list was endless.

To get started we shared our views and experiences of smacking. I for one am used to the term, and I have been smacked though little did I know that smacking is elsewhere too. Almost every one in the group had been smacked at some time – usually by their parents – and no one felt good when they were smacked.

However, there were lots of different views on smacking in the group. Some people thought it was OK, others that it should only be used occasionally and some people that it was wrong to smack at all. I think smacking can be dangerous and parents should not make it a habit to smack their children because it may harm them, perhaps not externally but internally.

We talked about the background of the issue too, with Sue (who was

there to help us) telling us that some countries had passed a law to ban smacking. For example, it's been banned in Sweden for 25 years. And we also heard about the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child that the United Kingdom has signed up to. In it there is a clause stating that children will be protected from any kind of harm. That certainly got us thinking.

After the lunch break, we worked in groups to work out what questions should be included in the questionnaire and what age groups should be targeted. It took us quite some time to come to a conclusion, but at the end of the day we all agreed what the questionnaire should look like and what questions to ask, who to ask, and when to ask them.

The talkshop was a huge success and we're all excited about carrying on this project.

The same group got together again at the end of February to look at the initial findings from the questionnaires. They decided it was important to get answers from more young people, so the questionnaire is being sent out to lots more people. If you'd like to take part in the survey call 020 7843 6099/6067 or visit www.youngncb.org.uk/smacking to download a questionnaire.

We'll let you know all the results of the full survey in the next issue of *Loudspeaker*.



member news

member profile...



Satnam Bedi from Ilford, Essex, has been a Young NCB member for over three years. When he's not involved in events or talks, he's busy making a career for himself as a dancer. Those of you who've seen him dance know he's gonna go far ...

How long have you been dancing?

I've always had an ambition to dance even though I've never had lessons. Before I danced for fun but for the past 8 or 9 months it's been turning into a career for me. I've recently been in Bombay Dreams which was a real experience.

What made you start dancing?

Even when I was really small I'd look at the TV and think 'I can do that' – so I did it. I just like performing – I think it's in my genes.

What sort of dance do you do?

Cuban salsa, Bangra, Bollywood, Arabic, Belly, Street, Bodylocking. I like all of them equally – I like to vary the range.

Who are your idols?

Oh loads of people. I'd say Michael Jackson (but only for his dance moves!). I've always liked Justin Timberlake. And Shakira too.

You perform a lot, so do you get recognised in the street?

I do in my local area because I recently took part in a huge Bollywood show called Return of

Devdas. We've got plans to take the show to other places so I should get noticed other places too soon!

Do you get nervous before you go on stage?

Of course! I always feel like my stomach's turned upside down. When you get out on stage and see the audience just boggling at you it's scary but as soon as you know they're supporting you, you feel fine. The feeling after you finish is always really good.

What are you going to do next?

I'm planning to go to a performing arts college in Croydon. I've got auditions soon – it'll be tough but it's definitely my ambition to go there.

How did you first get involved with Young NCB?

I first came along to an event with my school and enjoyed it so I kept coming. I think what they do is good and I want to support them to get young people's voices across.

What do you like about Young NCB?

I like coming to events because you get to meet all other people from other places and hear their opinions. It's important to get overall ideas about things and not just what I think.

Do you have time for any other hobbies?

Apart from studying, NO! I'm doing my GCSEs this year so with all my dancing it's very busy.

and the winner is

OK, so they didn't get the chance to walk up the red carpet or make a tearful acceptance speech, but Young NCB members Louise Longa and Ridwan Patel have had all the work they do for Young NCB and other projects recognised in a series of awards.

Louise and Ridwan are both students at Langdon School in Newham, London. And they have both received Newham's Shining Through Silver Award for citizenship. Not content with just the one award, they both also received the Jack Petchey Award for all the work they do with Young NCB and their contribution to school life through things like the school council, refugee week and breakfast club.

Louise has recently received another two awards as well: one from Trinity Community Centre in Newham, London for her work with their projects for young refugees and asylum seekers, and one from the Beyond the Will Smith Challenge with Newham Youth Spotlight. BTWSC is a voluntary organisation, which develops human potential through use of the creative arts. Despite the name, unfortunately Will Smith wasn't there to hand out the prizes!

Well done to Ridwan and Louise.





the



competition

the european challenge results

Well done to all of you who entered our competition in the last issue of *Loudspeaker* and sent in your answers to the five short questions about Europe. The first three winners were ... Oliver Edwards, Shiarn Jones and Joyce José

Congratulations!! They got a fabulous Irn-Bru goodie bag complete with mini radio, T-shirt and loads more, kindly donated to Young NCB by Barr Soft Drinks.

the musical quiz

This time we have FIVE goodie bags to give away. If you fancy your chances at winning one of these bags, simply take a look at the competition below, tick the answers you think are correct in the coupon at the bottom of the page and send to us by Friday 23 May. As you can read on page 11, Young NCB member Satnam Bedi has recently taken part in the musical *Bombay Dreams* as a dancer. We want to find out how much you know about singing, dancing, acting and celebrities.

Good luck!

- Where is the musical *Bombay Dreams*, in which Satnam has been dancing, being performed?
 - London's East End
 - London's West End
 - Dharamsala, India
- Which big London and New York musical has recently been made into a Hollywood film?
 - Phantom of the Opera
 - Monsoon Wedding
 - Chicago
- Which ex-Eastenders celebrity starred in the musical *My Fair Lady*?
 - Tamsin Outhwaite
 - Jack Ryder
 - Martine McCutcheon
- Which singer has NOT had an acting role in a blockbuster film?
 - Missy Elliott
 - P. Diddy
 - Ja Rule
- Who played Romeo in the film *Romeo and Juliet*?
 - Brad Pitt
 - Leonardo Di Caprio
 - Pierce Brosnan

what's coming up...

Run for Young NCB

It's that time of year again. Last year 22 people ran and raised over £3,000 for us. This year we want many more of you to join us to run the British 10K London! The 10 kilometre route goes past some of the most famous sights in London (Piccadilly Circus, Houses of Parliament, London Eye, St Paul's). Last year there were over 12,000 runners and it'll probably be bigger this time. It's amazing to see all those people running and even better to be part of it! It's fun, it's good for you and it's a really worthwhile cause. The race takes place on Sunday 13 July. Come on ... sign up ... you know you want to! Email us at info@youngncb.org.uk, or call 020 7843 6099/6067.

Crush the Myths – HIV talkshop

After the success of the Young NCB HIV and AIDS talkshop in London last year, we're planning to hold another one in summer. This time Young NCB members and friends will get together in Leeds, West Yorkshire to talk through issues around HIV and AIDS and what young people need to know about it. Once the date's been fixed we'll put it on the website at www.youngncb.org.uk/ events or you can call 020 7843 6099/ 6067 to find out more.

Don't Judge a Book by its Cover

Young NCB is organising a big event in October half-term holiday to talk about and challenge negative perceptions and images of young people – by the media, adults and other young people. Over 100 young people – mostly from local groups – will be invited to take part in the day. There'll also be specially chosen adults there who will be invited to listen to what you have to say. The event will give everyone the chance to share ideas, experiences and look at how to challenge negative perceptions together. Why not join Young NCB and lots of other groups from all around the country to discuss these important issues and find some solutions to improve young people's lives? There'll be more information in the next issue of *Loudspeaker*. But if you want to get involved in planning this event call Young NCB on 020 7843 6099/ 6067 or email info@youngncb.org.uk.

contact us...

Send us your thoughts ... opinions ... ideas ... writing ... pictures. We want to know what you think about Young NCB, what you would like to see on the website, what you want to read about in *Loudspeaker*.

What do you think of: the media, schools and education, sex and relationships, drugs, bullying and violence, safety for young people. If there's a burning issue you think needs to be discussed, this is the place to start the ball rolling!

E-mail: info@youngncb.org.uk

or write to Young NCB, 8 Wakley Street, London EC1V 7QE

Tel: 020 7843 6099 (for information and bookings)

Tick the following boxes, cut out this coupon and send your answers by freepost to Young NCB - The Irn-Bru Musical Quiz, National Children's Bureau, Freepost, London, EC1B 1DB. Entries must be received by 23 May 2003.

- | | | | | | | |
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| 1. | a | <input type="checkbox"/> | b | <input type="checkbox"/> | c | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| 5. | a | <input type="checkbox"/> | b | <input type="checkbox"/> | c | <input type="checkbox"/> |

My name is: _____

Please contact me on: _____