



# Talk to Us – Engagement Forum

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2018 the Talk to Us Engagement Forum took place. The meeting encouraged individuals and groups from a variety of groups across Monmouthshire including:

- Monmouth 50+
- Monmouthshire People First
- Abergavenny 50+
- Age Cymru
- Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

The meeting provided an opportunity for those present to hear about the Budget proposals and gain information on the Monmouthshire Wellbeing Plan.



# Talk to Us – Engagement Forum

## Thoughts and feelings.....

### Spending on Adult Social Care

- Concerns about the reduction in money for adult social care
- Concerns - volunteers and transporting people who are disabled
- Commissioning for services needs to be clearer

### Council Tax / Business Rates

- Why is Council Tax so low compared to other authorities
- Business Rates need to be reduced to encourage more new businesses to come to start up in Monmouthshire

### Transport

- Improve bus services
- Improve timetables they need to be kept up to date
- Bus Shelters – waterproofing

### Highways

- Belgrave Road Abergavenny – roads need resurfacing.

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## Thoughts and feelings.....

‘Good to hear from Julie Boothroyd. Answered questions on the Social Services Bill.’

‘So much information, was confusing. Could it be condensed to something shorter and clearer? The direct answers from the floor were good.’

‘Interesting – Some of it I did not understand! But I did learn some useful information.’

‘Well presented and easy to understand. Could not understand why council tax is so much lower than Blaenau Gwent when it is clearly a more deprived area.’



‘I think an honest and depressing presentation, lets hope that my personal pleas will be acted upon.’

# Your Future Your Way – Young People Forum

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2018 Your Future Your Way young people engagement day took place. The meeting encouraged young people from the following secondary schools:

- **Monmouth School**
- **King Henry VIII School, Abergavenny**
- **Caldicot School**
- **Monmouthshire Youth Service**

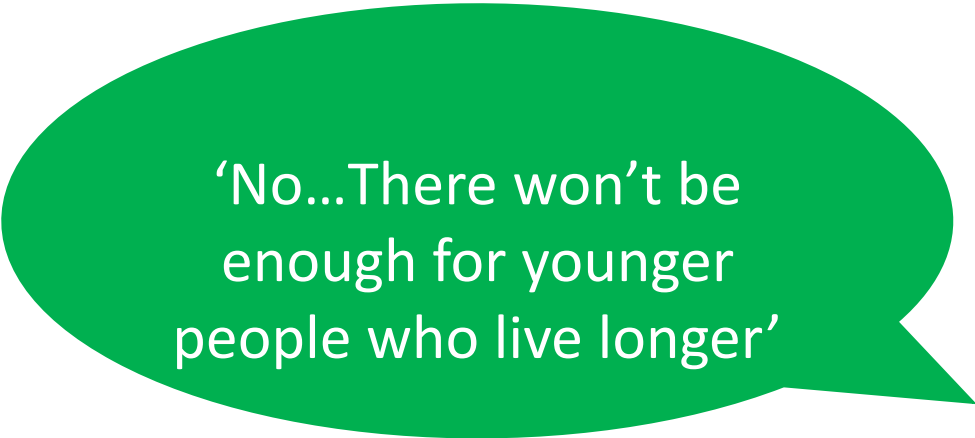
The event took place at the Caldicot Choir Hall and provided an opportunity for young people to discuss:

- **The Budget proposals debate**
- **Monmouthshire Well-being Plan**
- **Happiness Pulse Survey**



Due to an increase in social care budgets, particularly in adult social care do you think we should spend more money on older people?

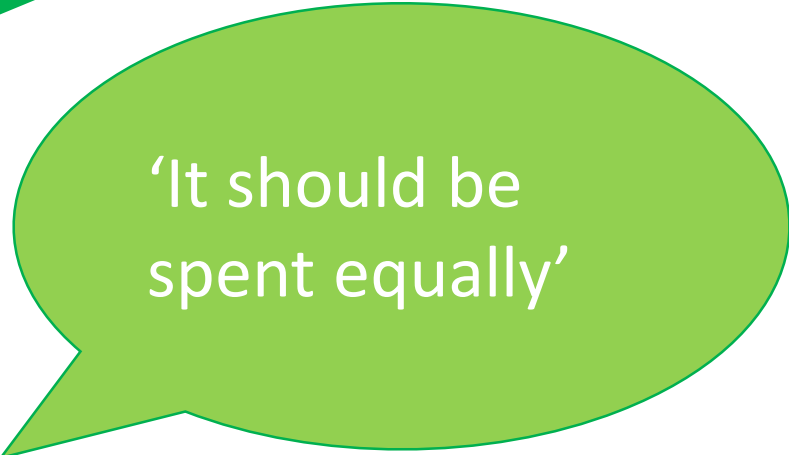
- Do you think this is fair?
- What do you think of this?



'No...There won't be enough for younger people who live longer'



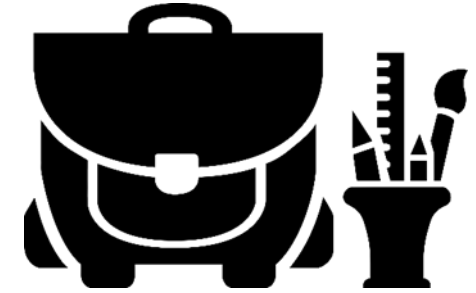
'No..Older people die sooner'



'It should be spent equally'

Is it a good idea to spend money on building new schools?

- What do you think of this?
- Do you think this is fair?



Majority of  
young people  
agreed!

'Yes, better facilities,  
everything is together  
and attracts more young  
people and safer.'

'No, we need  
good teachers –  
not just  
buildings.'

No Some money could be  
better used e.g. we have  
smart boards – but some  
of the teachers don't  
know how to use them.

## Do you agree MCC should we pay the Living Wage?

- What do you think of this?

Yes, if we don't pay the living wage more people would claim benefits, people wont be able to survive.

Yes, but it depends on the job



No, shouldn't get paid more than they would in a private sector role

No, it would cost too much

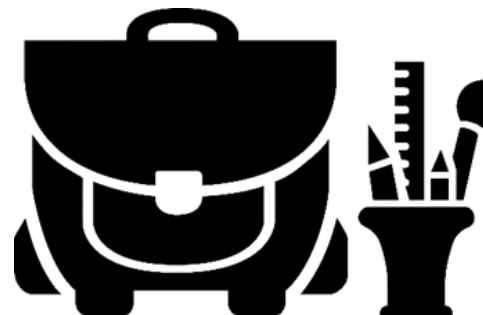
Majority  
Agreed



Would you prefer better school building and basic technology or same buildings with super - hi tech technology?

Yes, good equipment will motivate people and help them into employment

Yes, IT in schools is bad ( It takes too long to render a film)



50% Agree  
50% Disagree

No, a good environment helps with learning

Do you think we need to spend more on education?

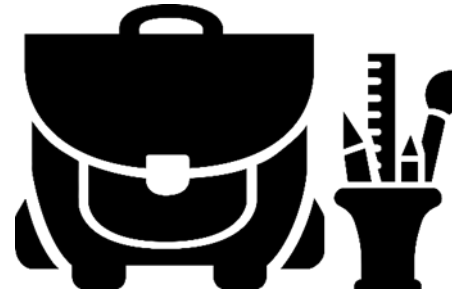
'We could teach more subjects which would lead to more job opportunities need to teach a wider 'curriculum for life'

'Yes, IT is inadequate we need more technicians'

'Yes, good equipment will motivate people and help them into employment'

90% Agree  
10% Disagree

'No, we Need to learn from education in other countries'



If you were a councillor for a day and you had a budget of £149 million how would you spend it?

Share between schools, hospitals and hospices

Need to ask everyone not just young people

Not enough accommodation for young people

