

Monmouthshire Budget Engagement 19/20

Young People Session Caldicot Leisure Centre

Engaging with young people is essential. To engage effectively we aim to go to existing events to talk to young people about things that will affect them.

Members of the Engagement and Communication Team visited the Monmouthshire Sports Leaders Conference on Wednesday 30th January. 85 young people from all four secondary schools aged 11-14 from across Monmouthshire gathered at Caldicot Leisure Centre for the conference, delivered by The Monmouthshire Sports Development Team.

Will Mclean, Chief Officer for Children and Young People delivered an overview of the budget, posed questions and and created discussion around some of the key proposals which will affect young people and their families.

The session was a combination of information sharing and an interactive element.

Will Mclean posed questions to the young people in order to gauge their views. Once asked a question the young people were asked to move to the corner of the room they most agreed, disagreed and if they were not sure headed to the middle of the room.

Photo below shows how young people were able to move around to share their views



Will Mclean talked to the group about some of the pressures that the council is facing as well as an overview about where the money comes from and how it is distributed.

Questions

Monmouthshire County Council gets the least funding per head of population compared to the rest of Wales. Do you think this is fair?

The majority of young people did not think this was fair.

How do you think the money should be distributed?

- By the size of the population
- Look at the assets that people have
- Should be shared equally across Wales
- Determined on the number of children people have

If you had to distribute the budget – what would you spend it on?

(Young people were given four choices – and were asked to run to the corner of the room they felt was important and needed money spent)

The young people had to choose between:

- Social Care and Health – 48%
- Schools – 45%
- Roads - 3%
- Leisure and events – 3%

The session then evolved, young people were asked to share their views on some of the savings proposed by the council.

Children and Young People – 21st Century School programme

Do you think this is a good idea or bad idea...To build new schools in Abergavenny and Chepstow?

Good Idea: 5%

Not Sure: 14%

Bad Idea: 81%

Why is it a good idea?

- Better facilities
- Better technology
- Current school is out of date and falling apart

Why a bad idea?

- Currently in schools there is a lack of staff – concentrate on the existing schools
- Need more funding per student and more funding for departments (there is not enough money for PE)
- Don't think they need more schools – they should improve the ones they have

Not sure:

- Young people from Chepstow School, we need more money invested in the current school. We need more teachers, spend money on the pupils and teaching not the building

Additional Learning Needs

Do you think this it is a good or bad idea to train more teachers to help children and young people with additional learning needs?

Good Idea: 91%

Bad Idea: 9%

Not sure: 0%

Good Idea

- All pupils will be treated equally
- It will help pupils develop
- Increase confidence and help pupils overcome difficulties
- An inclusive Hub works really well at our school
- Extra staff to support

Bad idea

- Is the money appropriate for the right people i.e. will it be for people who misbehave – they don't need it
- If they already get the money the support is there.

Waste and Recycling

Do you think this is a good idea or bad idea to introduce reusable plastic sacks for recycling – instead of red and purple bags?

Good Idea: 91%

Bad Idea: 9%

Not Sure: 0%

Good Idea

- Protects animals
- Decreases litter
- Cheaper for the council
- No need for single use plastic

Bad Idea

- Maggots – they will stink
- Open bags are bag idea
- They will get lost easily if the wind blows them away
- Easy to steal
- Confusion – Who's bag is who!
- Bags will be thrown anywhere by bin men

Social Care

Do you think it's a good or bad idea to listen to what older people want – ensure they continue to live the life they want to?

Good Idea: 93%

Bad Idea: 7%

Not Sure:0%

Good Idea

- Person centred choice
- It will reduce cost on NHS
- It will reduce isolation and depression
- Improve the quality of care
- Older people should have a freedom of choice
- They should be able to live the life they want to live

Bad Choice

- Provide services that people want
- Cheaper to provide a standard service
- Young people should have a say too

Looking to the future, what could be done to improve life in Monmouthshire?

- Develop tourism, make the county more visible and attractive to visitors
- Enable more pupils to learn in the natural environment – more outside teaching and making the most of nature.
- More basic equipment in our schools
- Better transport – both school transport and public transport
- Reduce pollution
- Inspire more children to take up sport – get local sporting heroes to talk to young people in their sports clubs and schools.
- More money needed for the youth service,

The session was shared on Twitter and Facebook, increasing the awareness to residents of how we have been engaging with residents of all ages.

Tweet:



Monmouthshire @Monmouthshi... · 5d ✓

Brilliant to see young people having their say on the Monmouthshire Budget 19/20
A great informative session. Thanks to all involved..@MonSportDev @p9sul @willmc21

@KingHenrySchool
@LearnWithMCS
@CaldicotSchool
@chepstowschool



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Face book post:

Monmouthshire
Published by Rhian Cook [?] · 30 January at 14:57 · 🌐

Today young people from across Monmouthshire got involved in the Monmouthshire Budget 19/20 engagement process.

The session was informative and created debate and discussion around some of the proposals that will affect young people and their families. Thanks to all involved.

For more info about our proposals go to:
<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/budget-2019-2020>

+4

Performance for your post

2,357 People Reached

14 Likes, Comments & Shares 🗨️

7 Likes	7 On Post	0 On Shares
7 Comments	6 On Post	1 On Shares
0 Shares	0 On Post	0 On Shares

181 Post Clicks

91 Photo views	2 Link clicks 🗨️	88 Other Clicks 🗨️
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The session provided an opportunity to share information and gain an understanding of how young people feel about some of the proposals that will affect them and their families. Feedback from pupils was positive about the session.