



Takeover Challenge 2017

The Takeover Challenge sees organisations across England opening their doors to children and young people to take over adult roles and promote and encourage youth participation.

It puts children and young people into decision-making positions and encourages organisations and businesses to hear their views. In Dudley borough we are committed to building an infrastructure for all young people to have opportunities to participate, share their views and influence decisions that affect their lives regardless of their backgrounds, experiences or abilities.

This year's Takeover Challenge built on the work by the Youth Service, DMBC in 2016 where 10 young people expressed an interest in taking part, 7 opportunities within the Local Authority were offered and 8 young people participated; 3 enjoyed it so much they came back in 2017 to takeover other opportunities.

A partnership approach was taken in 2017 which increased the number of organisations involved and the number of opportunities by 400%.

Thanks is given to the 36 professionals from Dudley MBC, Dudley CCG, West Midlands Police, West Midlands Fire Service, Dudley CVS, Political figures, Members of Parliament, Spurgeons – Dudley Young Carers, schools, colleges and Lunch on the Run all of whom provided a variety of opportunities for young people to takeover.

54 young people from a third of secondary schools in the borough, three colleges and a university student expressed an interest in participating, with 40 takeovers taking place. The educational settings who enabled young people to take part are;

- Pedmore Technology College
- Holly Hall Academy
- Dormston
- The Earls
- Crestwood
- Bishop Milner Catholic College
- Summerhill
- Dudley College
- Halesowen College
- King Edwards VI College

Young people between the age of 13-19 from all across the borough with different backgrounds and abilities took part, including young people involved in, Dudley Youth Council, the Children in Care Council, the Care Leavers Forum, Young Health Champions and Police Week Students. Young people with a variety of experiences took place including looked after, young people with disabilities and additional needs and mental health illnesses participated.



Morgan mounted his “Takeover Challenge” in the form of leading (with my support) at a meeting which I would normally have chaired. The meeting was a consultation event with service users, carers and volunteers. Right from the word go he showed diligence and enthusiasm. He immediately switched on to the subject area of the meeting and really engaged people in what was being spoken about. Morgan said he really enjoyed his time with us, and he added that he would like to forge links between Queens Cross and the Youth Council (of which he is a representative), so that other young people have an opportunity to experience the positivity of working in a care environment. I was really impressed with Morgan’s obvious enthusiasm for what he was doing, and his positivity really came over to everyone who was involved on the day.

Paul Astley - Queens Cross Network, Assistant Team Manager, Dudley MBC

What participants said about the Takeover Challenge 2017:

80% of the people that participated felt that takeover challenge was either excellent or very good.

We asked what people what they enjoyed most about Takeover Challenge. Professionals enjoyed being able to offer opportunities for young people, hearing about the excellent things young people are involved in and the difference they are making, giving young people a ‘once in a lifetime’ opportunity such as being Mayor for a day and learning directly from young people. Young people enjoyed learning about different roles, meeting different people and how welcoming the professionals were.

“Meeting such energised and interesting young people, who’s engagement and articulation of questions was really great” Chief Superintendent Rich Fisher – West Midlands Police

“I enjoyed talking to lots of different people about different subjects that affected young people. I also enjoyed sitting in on some meetings about things that had to do with the young people in Dudley.” Lucy Price – young person

We also asked what people had learned through the Takeover Challenge.

Young people learned about how services in Dudley are helping young people, about the outside working world and how meetings are sometimes boring! Professionals learned how ‘brilliant and intelligent young people are, how much we can learn and adopt their energy and positive mind-set’, to be aware of jargon and abbreviations, that young people are talented and can adapt well to the work environment and offer a lot to some officers work.

‘Young people are really keen to get more involved. They are passionate about agencies and organisations co-producing these opportunities with them’ – Nicki Burrows

‘This experience has reinforced our service priorities in regards to person centred planning for individual case work. It will also encourage us to consult young people regarding areas of whole service development in the future.’ – Emma James – Dudley MBC

We asked participants if there was anything else they would like to tell us, professionals expressed the desire to do it again next year, and that they found it an enjoyable and rewarding experience. There were also

comments about the positive contributions that the young people made. The young people commented on how exhausting it was and how there could be more communication.

"I would like if there was a bit more communication between the organisers and the people that we were going to be with as there was a bit of a mishap with the timings of mine. However, I did appreciate the fact that they tried to help me as best as they could to try and make my experience good. I would like to say thank you to the people that helped me on the day that I was there and the people that I talked to for making my experience interesting."

'Elice was an absolute delight and a credit to her school & family. She was pleasant and polite, her work was excellent and she showed real empathy for the people we support. She was willing to do whatever she was asked and always to a very high standard.' Sally Bassett – Lunch on the Run

We asked participants what would have made your experience even better, many said nothing! The young people said more confirmation and a ride in a police car, professionals said having more time to plan, more interesting activities and spending even longer with the young people.

Whitehall Takeover 2017

Upon arrival in London my first activity was a tour of the various departments of the civil service, this proved to be enlightening, as there were far more departments than I thought there would be, over 40! The next activity was a 2 hour tour of the Houses of Parliament, unfortunately due to the House of Commons being in congress we were unable to see this however we did witness the congressional enter the chambers which was an experience.

Following on from lunch I was escorted to an 'I Will' event held at the Tower of London which was the perfect setting for the celebration of what the enlightening scheme had already achieved. Both I and my mentor sat on a table of young people similar age to myself who had volunteered in a variety of ways, resulting in them being ambassadors for the programme. The key idea that I picked up was the fact that this scheme held young people at its core and was determined to provide them with the opportunity to benefit the lives of others.

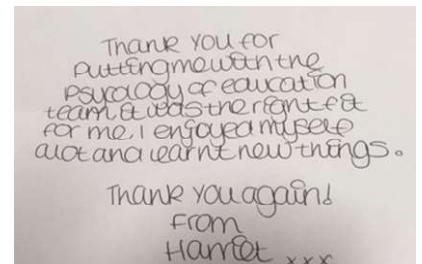
After a bustling return trip on the tube I returned to the civil service where I finished the tour and visited the office of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. I was introduced to the legal practitioners, speaking to newly qualified lawyers. Having always had my mind set on contract law in the private sector, this gave me a unique opportunity to witness law from the public sector and broaden the scope of the opportunities that law can provide me.

Having learnt an awful lot that day about where studying law could take me not only in the private sector but also within the public sector such as the civil service, as well as an insightful visit to parliament, I would say that this is a fantastic scheme and would advise anyone who had the opportunity to partake to do so, for what is a brilliant day!!

Gary Wall – young person

What went well

- ✓ Working in partnership not only increased our reach of young people and increased the number of opportunities within different agencies but also reduced the pressure on one person to organise and co-ordinate a mammoth logistical operation. It was the first time officers Siobhan Lloyd from Dudley MBC and Donna Roberts from Dudley CVS had found the opportunity to work together and it proved to be a very supportive and productive partnership.
- ✓ Pulling together and completing all the necessary paperwork (safeguarding documentation, risk assessments, consent forms, profiles) in a short period of time.
- ✓ Providing opportunities for the young people to come together before the takeover was really useful and provided an opportunity for them to ask questions, consider what was required, share any fears, have an input into their opportunities and also influence the evaluation.
- ✓ Having the Takeover Challenge spread over initially a two week period that increased to three weeks in November provided more opportunities and a wider variety within the opportunities.
- ✓ It was great that the press took an interest in Takeover Challenge
<http://www.dudley.gov.uk/media/media-releases/november-2017/teenager-ruby-takes-on-the-mayoral-chains-for-a-day/>
- ✓ All of the young people involved received a massive thank you and a certificate for taking part.
- ✓ The biggest success is most definitely the feedback and thanks we have received from the young people some of whom had the most wonderful experiences. Also words cannot describe the joy of seeing the incredible young people we have in our borough being empowered to engage fully and meaningfully in ways that influence how professions think and feel about services for young people.
- ✓ Finally a major success was the way in which professionals have embraced the ethos of the Takeover Challenge, opening up and sharing information about their personal lives in the bid to be more human and approachable, making the young people feel really welcome and really listening and valuing the young people's time and views.



Learning from 2017

- Information and a save the date request sent out early to professionals will ensure we have a wide variety of opportunities available.
- Contact earlier young people via existing networks and schools with all pre-prepared paperwork and consent forms with a closing date.
- Further develop a standardised robust system that ensures any issues are reported in consistent way so that everyone understands the procedure in every eventuality.
- Joint evaluation or an exit interview between the young people and the professional at the end of the challenge would build a robust evaluation process for future challenges.
- Ask professionals to identify a Plan B should unavoidable changes to offers happen so that young people understand if they do not receive the Takeover Challenge they were expecting they understand why.
- Communication with PA's where appropriate is key when confirming arrangements

Future development

- Extend the period of Takeover opportunities from two weeks to a month culminating in a celebration event which brings everyone back together on the national takeover date.
- Increase the number of educational settings involved so that all colleges are represented and the number of schools engaged increases from a third to half.
- Increase the opportunities within voluntary sector organisations and social enterprises.
- We would like to develop a pack of resources for professionals and their teams that are involved in the Takeover Challenge so all the information, helpful hints and tips and resources are at hand and will enable the day to run smoother.

And finally...

A massive heartfelt thank you to all the professionals and young people that supported, showed an interest or took part in Takeover Challenge 2017! Without you these amazing opportunities would not be possible.

Professionals who offered a Takeover Challenge 2017

Arron Lennon	West Midlands Fire Service	West Midlands Fire Service Road Casualty Reduction Team
Amanda Grove	Dudley MBC, Children's Services	Lead for Youth and Community
Andy Gray	Dudley CVS	Chief Executive
Bal Kaur	Dudley MBC, People Service, Public Health	Head of Service Children and Young Peoples Public Health
Councillor Anne Millward	Cabinet Member for Children's Services	Cabinet Member for Children's Services
Darren Foley	Dudley MBC, Children's Services	Participation Officer - Care Leavers and Children in Care
Darren Shaw	Dudley MBC	Principal Social Worker
Donna Roberts	Dudley CVS	Young People, Families in Communities Officer
Eileen Fielding	Dudley CVS	Volunteer Manager
Emily Jeavons	Dudley MBC	Parks Development Officer
Emma James	Dudley MBC, Children's Services	Educational Psychologist
Emma Turley	Spurgeons	Young Carers Support Worker
Helen Ellis	Dudley MBC, Children's Services	Head of Service: Family Solutions
Helen O'Neill	CHADD	On-Route Foyer
Ian Austin	Member of Parliament	MP
James Tallis	Dudley MBC, Children's Services	Children's Commissioning - Quality and Safety Officer
Kate Green	DCVS	Integrated Plus Manager
Keith Rogers	Dudley MBC, Children's Services	Sycamore Adventure Centre Manager
Keren Hodgson	Dudley CCG	Engagement Officer
Lindsey Harding	CCG	Communications Officer
Liam Tucker	Spurgeons	Young Carers Support Worker

Luke Hamblett	Dudley CVS	Youth and Community Work Development Officer
Margot James	Member of Parliament	MP
Mark Ellerby	Psiams	Manager
Martine McFadden	Dudley MBC, Children's Services,	Corporate Parenting Board Co-ordinator
Nick Lacey	WM Fire Service	Fire Safety Inspecting Officer
Nicki Burrows	Dudley CVS	Children's Strategic Officer
Paul Astley	Dudley MBC, People Service, Adult Social Care	Queens Cross Network Manager
PC Paul Davis	WM Police	Young Person's Officer
Sally Bassett	Lunch on the Run	Manager
Sally Cornfield	Dudley MBC, People Service, Public Health	Public Health Manager
Siobhan Lloyd	Dudley MBC, Children's Services	Participation Officer
Sue Butcher	Dudley MBC, Children's Services	Chief Officer for Children's Services
Sue Vincent	CCG	
Chief Superintendent Richard Fisher	WM Police	Chief Superintendent
Tony Oakman	Dudley MBC	Deputy Chief Executive

The awesome young people involved in Takeover Challenge 2017

Abigail Crawford	Alex Griffiths	Amman Ahmed
Amy Palmer	Angel Hillard	Anthony Teague
Danni Nicholas	Davina Kaur	Elice Homer – Walton
Ezha Jahangir	Gary Wall	Harley Keasey
Harriett Norgrove	Holly Handly	Holly Brittain
James Callaghan	James Platt	Jamie Hassall
Katie Jones	Kayleigh Roberts	Liam Jones
Lucinda Downie	Lucy Davis	Lucy Jones
Lucy Price	Molly Watton	Morgan Martin
Morgan Siviter	Natasha Hussain	Payton Clifford
Rachel Tope	Ruby Norgrove	Sammy Booth
Shani Smith	Shanika Wooley	Sophie Harnett
Stephen Wilson	Teigan Payton	

Report prepared and written by
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