

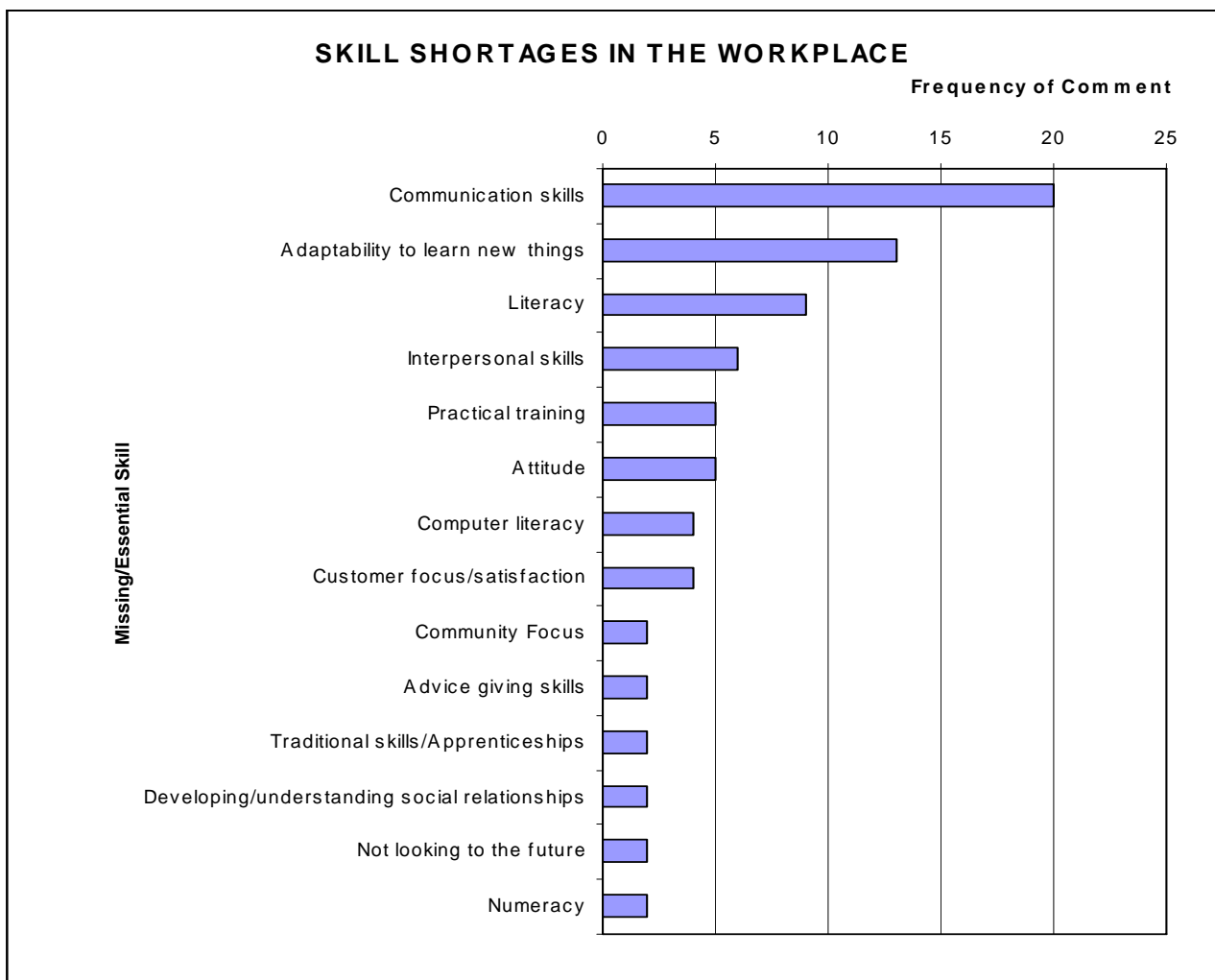
THE STOCKPORT PARTNERSHIP FORUM

26TH MARCH 2003

The results from the workshop discussions are detailed below. We have tried to represent as closely as possible the comments made.

ENGAGEMENT OF EMPLOYERS IN STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP – SKILL SHORTAGES IN THE WORKPLACE

The members of the Forum were asked to identify one essential skill needed in the workplace and a skill they felt is missing in the workplace. Many of the responses did not specify whether the skill was essential or missing and so the total number of times that the skill was mentioned is presented below, with the greater number taken to signify the importance of the skill.



Listed below are other comments made:

Responsibility	Unreasonableness	Perseverance	Encouraging entrepreneurs	Common sense	Bid writing – funding
Training in specialist skills	Planning	Personal leadership skills	Delivery – getting the job done	Creativity	Money management
Articulation	Critical thought	Working together co-operatively	Commitment	Discipline	

EXAMPLE OF PROPOSED STATEMENT OF INTENT DISCUSSED AT THE FORUM

It is our intention that all children and young people living in Stockport are helped to realise their full potential by inclusive access to services which help to maximise life chances - such as educational opportunities, health care and social care, and leisure and cultural services

All agencies in Stockport are committed to working together to identify those children in Stockport most at risk of social exclusion, in order to help minimise the potential for negative outcomes

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Facilitator: Jane Bowdenleigh

Scribe: Julie Bridge

Delegates:

Frances Farrer	Adswood & Bridgehall Community Forum
Thomas McCall	Boys & Girls Welfare Society
Sue Parkes	Relate
Jane Pilkington	Stockport Primary Care Trust
Barbara Swann	Stockport Primary Care Trust
Michael Priestley	Stockport Council – Teenage Pregnancy Co-ordinator
Darren Hurrell	Stockport NHS Trust
Helen Boyle	Community Safety Unit

Workshop One

Aspirations and priorities for children and young people at risk in Stockport

Part one – comments on the proposed Statement of Intent

- Are we targeting all young people or just vulnerable young people? If the latter should we change the original vision?
- Realise their full potential by inclusive access to appropriate services
- Include all services – in a holistic way rather than list the individual services
- Empowering/enabling young people to make healthy choices or lifestyle choices
- Need to target children not areas (see second paragraph of vision)
- Initial suggestion “It is our intention...maximise life chances. Working together our priority is to target young people with greatest needs.”

Group then agreed that the vision was too long

- Feel that the vision needs to be short and snappy – other vision is a bit woolly/ not clear what you are really trying to achieve
- “We want all young people in the borough to have the best life chances”
- Second para of vision is too negative – need to be higher aspiration and more positive (but feel this is not needed in any case – see below)

VISION NEEDS TO SAY THIS PLUS INCLUDE COMMITMENT OF AGENCIES WORKING TOGETHER.

Part two – objectives for Health and Wellbeing

Highest level

- Risky behaviour (including substance misuse, teenage conception)
- Looked after children/Children in care/need – to address health needs

- Disabled children (physical, learning disabilities), ensuring families receive support, develop systems.
- Improving child and adolescent mental health support to children at risk of social exclusion
- Children at risk of social exclusion/dropped out of system/or hard to reach

Level two

- To develop/consolidate MULTI Agency systems to support children and their families
- Improving health outcomes for most vulnerable
- To improve health outcomes for vulnerable children in deprived areas who often have the most difficulty in accessing services
- Chronic Illness

Workshop Two

How we work towards achieving these objectives

1. Risky behaviour (including substance misuse, teenage conception)

Actions

- To develop a joint holistic approach for information to young people about risky lifestyle choices.
- Pooling resources to develop more effective services to young people who adopt a risky lifestyle.
- To focus resources around areas that show the greatest need. Linked to evidence of need.

2. Looked after children/Children in care/need – to address health needs

Actions

- Continue to recruit foster carers and reduce numbers of placements.
- Joint approach to health needs of looked-after children.
- Put services in, rather than take children out – increase family support by outreach work.
- Health needs = Need to improve oral health and dental hygiene.

3. Disabled children (physical, learning disabilities), ensuring families receive support, develop systems.

Weakness

- Not sharing information in relation to health needs.
- Too many assessments that could be streamlined.
- Identifying the target group. Is there a lot of unmet need out there?
- Interface between adult and children services.

Strengths

- Health Act Partnership for learning disabilities (adult only).
- Disability database.

4. Improving child and adolescent mental health support to children at risk of social exclusion.

Actions

- Establish a child and adolescent mental health service with a clear organisational base and consistent leadership.

- Offer/provide appropriate early intervention at local level through schools and primary care.
- Raise the awareness and understanding of the mental health needs of children within their family situations

5. Children at risk of social exclusion/dropped out of system/or hard to reach

Actions

- Follow-up all non-attenders at school promptly.
- Support children at risk of exclusion from school, proactively to ensure they are not excluded.
- Encourage and motivate hard to reach young people through alternate curriculum geared to individual needs.

ACHIEVEMENT AND ENJOYMENT

Facilitator: Michael Jameson
Scribe: Bev Sellen

Delegates:

Lorraine Gleave	Stockport Council (Education)
Mandy Peers	Adswood & Bridgehall Lifelong Learning Project
Phil Whittaker	Stockport Council (Education)
Gay Turner	Stockport Council
Pat Hodson	Independent Options
Trevor Jones	Chamber of Commerce
Philip Winn	Stockport Baptist Church
Steve Carroll	Chamber Business Enterprises
Mike Brown	Connexions
Judy Parker	Romiley Life Centre
Ian Chetwyn	Imagine FM

Workshop One

Aspirations and priorities for children and young people at risk in Stockport

Part one – comments on the proposed Statement of Intent

- 'Learning' opportunities rather than 'educational'
- Why no mention of poverty as a factor?
- No vision for housing for 16-19 year olds (who may need additional support)
- Important to do as much to nurture those not at risk
- ie: brightest and most vulnerable given special attention - all those in between also need nurturing in order to make most of potential in health, leisure and culture
- Danger that young people 'most at risk' will be a very small number. Aspiration to include **all** young people achieving their potential. Danger that statement is too narrow
- Use of word Healthcare – some clarification needed:
 - Do you have a 'life chance' in healthcare
 - Is healthcare a mechanism to deploy to improve health or allow those with health problems to maximise potential?
- Are all agencies committed – they should be continuing to be committed to the statement.
- What about positive outcomes as well as the negative outcomes
- What about children being safe, happy – 'achievement' should not be only goal and 'enjoyment' should be wider than just being linked to 'achievement'.
- Want all young people to feel they belong and are included - not just about educationally achieving.
- What do young people themselves want?
- Encourage participation - involvement of children and young people in the process
- Danger that young people 'most at risk' will be a very small number. Aspiration to include all young people.
- What does social exclusion cover?
- Want all young people to feel they belong and are included - not just about educationally achieving.

Part two – objectives for Achievement and Enjoyment

6 groupings of priorities identified:

1. A co-ordinated approach to earlier intervention
2. a) To take a measure of all young people able to sustain themselves once having left full-time education
b) An objective relating to outstanding I.R.T. systems supported by all relevant agencies to extend I.R.T to age 19
(I.R.T. = 'Information Referral and Tracking' System where all agencies working with young people can share data and co-ordinate support)
3. a) Valuing vocational training which is in tune with what employers want
b) Support from employers in the recognition of vocational qualifications
c) More emphasis on vocational training for 14 - 19 year olds
4. a) Develop ways of recognising and rewarding effort as well as achievement
b) Rewarding success not just about end result but also the process to get there
5. a) To engage children and young people when designing strategies to meet agreed objectives
b) Engaging all young people at all levels
6. To provide young people with the skills to sustain lifelong learning

Workshop Two

How we work towards achieving these objectives

Involving Young People (all)

Youth Council - market it better - what's it for? Who's it for?

- How is it promoted to young people?
- Including all young people in this
- Sponsorship and support through local media
- Use of internet
- What issues are important to them?
- Feedback - how?

Co-ordinated approach

Agencies good at talking together - need to work on 'working together' in real partnerships!

What can be done?

- Capture interest at fairly early age - get involved in more vocational than academic skills.
- Having variety available for appropriate learning. Break down barriers between 'academic' and 'vocational' training.
- Employers identify skills they need to employ young people - build into training - can this information be made available borough wide?
- Recognise different methods of learning - need to be enjoyable and available to all children and young people.
- Learning is an achievement

- Employers not very good at networking - not easy to get them involved – as a solution, could Stockport Council take lead as model employer? through Nexus scheme.
- Look at 'compact' scheme 10 - 15 years ago
- Tesco model of vocational training for unemployed people.
- Some very good schemes set up locally (Pure Radio?) to employ young people with special needs
- Ask young people what their expectations are?
- Youth Service consultation on young people' priorities - questionnaire development through focus groups.
- Borough-wide awards scheme recognising effort (needs agencies to work together with media etc). Vote for award-candidates.

PARTICIPATION AND CITIZENSHIP

FACILITATORS: Ed Blundell
SCRIBE: Sue Thomas

Delegates:

Maureen Morgan	Adswood and Bridgehall Community Forum
John Russell	Stockport Young People's MP
Simon Morton	Stockport Council (Corporate Youth Strategy)
Jeff Stones	Age Concern
Councillor Mark Hunter	Stockport Council (Leader of the Council)
Janet Bloor	Victim Support
Stephen Watkins	Director of Public Health
Roger Tripp	Marple & District Churches
Councillor Tom McGee	Stockport Council (Councillor)
Dick Crawshaw	Greater Manchester Police
Anita Patel	Harvest Housing Group
Aba Graham	Stockport Council (BME Co-Ordinator)

Workshop One

Aspirations and priorities for children and young people at risk in Stockport

Part one – comments on the proposed Statement of Intent

- More participative (see note box)
- Needs to include what Young people can contribute – recognition of Young people as participants
- Some young people can advise and support others.
- Needs positive spin on statement. Agree not to include "vulnerable" in statement.
- Needs to be able to measure contribution from agencies.
- "Helped" sounds prescriptive
- Young people given opportunities to realise potential – empowering.
- Prefer second statement
- Need accountability in second statement
- End of second statement – more potential for possible outcomes
- "Identify" not enough
- Important to emphasise that young people should shape the strategy
- Vital that young people work with agencies, agencies need to approach and invite young people
- Important not to reproduce adult structures
- Young people part of the solution

All agencies in Stockport work with the youth and are committed to working together.

THE PROPOSED STATEMENT OF INTENT WAS ALTERED TO:

It is our intention that all children and young people living in Stockport are helped to realise their full potential by a full involvement in the Stockport society and by inclusive access to services which help to maximise life chances – such as educational opportunities, health care and social care, leisure and cultural services, transport and facilities for organising their own groups and activities.

All agencies in Stockport are committed to working together to identify those children in Stockport most at risk of social exclusion, in order to minimise the potential for negative outcomes and maximise their potential for personal development. All agencies in Stockport will aim to maximise the opportunities for the improvement of young people to be deployed to the benefit of those at risk of social exclusion.

Part two – objectives for Participation and Citizenship

- Active participation; involvement a positive experience, young people enabled to participate
- Avoid Jargon, not patronising, accessible
- Avoid stereotypes, relationships, and perceptions
- Disregard all appropriate decisions that young people haven't contributed to.

Workshop Two

How we work towards achieving these objectives

1st Priority

Active participation; involvement a positive experience

Young people enabled to participate

How:

- Need to access sufficient numbers of young people so don't just call on a small group. Need to contact them from a variety of places.
- Could have a series of workshops in Schools etc.
- Need to take account of those not informed structures – Important not to further disempower those not involved
- Borough wide Youth Forum – how do all the groups that feed in link together.
- Important to go out to young people but need a structure
- Need variety of approaches
- Young people need to be able to chose about taking part

Post-it comments:

- Involvement – positive experience
- (1) add "in their community" to the end (add to first priority)
- (1) to develop in partnerships with schools/colleges as well as more informal groups aspirations on those services which they both think are relevant
- Consultation – could be lip service should not be tokenistic, should be action based.

- To enable young people to be able to participate in all decision making that affects their lives.
- (4) involvement needs to enable/to feed into decision making process.
- (4) respecting and understanding difference – make space
- Active No.1 Participation
- “shape delivery”
- Giving young people a voice through Youth Forum, active participation and involvement
- Hop on and off arrangement and develop a range of “innovative ways to engage children and young people.

2nd Priority

Avoid Jargon, not patronising, accessible

How:

- Language can disempower or empower
- Need sense of audience – young people need to be part of process
- Simple
- Need a communications strategy
- Young people to write and proof documents.
- Need to use other means of communication – music, video, through role models.
- Attitude and body language important
- Need to have confidence in the policy – but need to keep audiences in mind.

Post-it comments:

1. To teach public officials in Stockport to speak and write plain English.
2. To teach the people of Stockport that “I don’t understand” is an accusation, not a confession.

2nd Priority

Avoid stereotypes, relationships, and perceptions

How:

- Linked to previous priority
- Adding value rather than taking away from
- Sharing values and concepts and goals = shared ownership. A lot of the issues are the same – need to identify them.
- To break down barriers e.g. between old and young people, need to bring them together.
- Labels can make extra barriers
- Promoting positive aspects
- Make the experience fun
- To break down barriers need to un-pick why they are there.
- Mutual respect – need to look beyond the suit!

Post-it comments:

No stereotypes:

- Always remember that most seriously dishonest and deceitful behaviour is carried out by middle aged affluent people in suits.
- Need understanding of young people
- Think in a more participatory way of working – avoid stereotypes
- Relationship – perceptions of adult and young people

2nd Priority

Disregard all appropriate decisions that young people haven't contributed to.

How:

- Is this a "how" in itself?

Post-it comment:

- To test all appropriate decisions and disregard all those that young people have not contributed to. (2nd Priority)

PROTECTION

Facilitator: Viki Packman
Scribe: Carol Morrison

Delegates

Barbara Healy	Stockport Civic Society
Judith Smith	Heaton Chapel Community Council
Sue Rawlinson	BC2000
Fiona Clear	Family Link Service
Chris Mycock	GM Fire Service
Gani Martins	Stockport Council (Regeneration)
Sandy Penfold	Stockport Council (Regeneration)

Workshop One

Aspirations and priorities for children and young people at risk in Stockport

Part one – comments on the proposed Statement of Intent

- First element of revised statement liked
- Need to capture more than access to service - seeking societal change
- Tension between providing for all and targeting most in need

PROPOSED STATEMENT OF INTENT

It is our intention that all children and young people living in Stockport are helped – or help them - to realise their full potential

Communities, individuals and organisations are responsible for all children in Stockport

We will work together to identify vulnerable children to provide extra support to maximise potential.

Part two – objectives for Protection

PRIORITIES

Highest level

1. To identify and protect children in Stockport at risk of significant harm

Level two

2. To support children, young people and their families in communities to access social networks, health and education services.
3. To ensure all family support services are targeted to those who need them most.
4. To support parents and carers in looking after their children safely.
5. To ensure that children are securely attached to carers capable of providing safe and effective care for the duration of childhood.

Level three

6. To reduce the numbers of children coming into the care system
7. When all reasonable measures have been taken to maintain the family unit and children are still in need of removal, this should happen in a timely way.
8. To prevent and reduce homelessness in children and young people in Stockport.

Workshop Two

How we work towards achieving these objectives

Measures of success

(commentary on section from background papers)

Take out - "deaths due to maltreatment"

add : reduction of children on child protection register
: reduction of number of child accidents (but variation of views)

Cross refer to health targets on post-natal depression and generally cross refer to other organisational targets.

Suggested input from organisations to achieve objectives (or actions suggested which are not organisation specific)

- Community capacity building (include communities of interest)
- Improving physical environment to improve safety through increased local joint working
- Local interventions to improve on anti-social behaviour - voluntary and community led
- Overcome difficulties of confidential data protection to ensure sharing of knowledge of vulnerable children, young people and families.

RESPONSIBILITY

Facilitator: Nathan Lee
Scribe: Louise Richardson

Delegates:

Lorraine Gleave	Stockport Council (Education)
Mike Hughes	Youth Offending Team
George Gallimore	GMP
Councillor Martin Candler	Stockport Council
Brian Evans	Stockport Council (Social Services)
John Schultz	Stockport Council (Chief Executive of the Council)
Fred Alexander	North Area College – Principal
Maureen Sanjed	Jobcentre Plus
Sue Alting	Stockport Primary Care Trust

Workshop One

Aspirations and priorities for children and young people at risk in Stockport

Part one – comments on the proposed Statement of Intent

- Overwordy
- Emphasise access to services and opportunities to access
- Services – flexible
- “Services” – limiting – Life experiences
- Emphasis on all young people = important
- Maximise positive outcomes
- Too much “Agency” speak
- Opportunities
- Recognising their own potential
- Empowered not helped
- Removing barriers
- Increasing accessibility's to provide opportunities
- How do you know when you have achieved your potential?

Suggested re-write

It is our intention that all children and young people in Stockport should be able to realise their full potential through inclusive support to maximise their life changes, such as education. such as educational opportunities, health care and social care, and leisure and cultural services.

All agencies in Stockport are committed to working together to identify those children and young people most at risk of social exclusion, in order to help maximise the potential for positive outcomes.

Part two – objectives for Responsibility

Highest level

- Providing opportunities for success
- Enabling children and young people to choose to avoid harm
- Praising, acknowledging. Recognising positive input of young people.

Second level

- Relevant, appropriate opportunities to continue engagement in learning and training.
- To build on Connexions work to support young people into productive, responsible adult life.

Third level

- To create opportunities for interesting, worthwhile leisure activities.
- To increase the proportion of children and young people benefiting from educational opportunities in their widest sense (curricular and non curricular)
- To adopt inclusive approaches to children and young people being able to take part in unfamiliar new opportunities.

Fourth level

- Increase the involvement of parents and community in broadening the curriculum for 0-10 year olds

Workshop Two

How we work towards achieving these objectives (highest level)

Providing opportunities for success in terms of personal goals

- Change culture of existing provision of training and learning.
- Alternative methodology
- Broaden definitions of success

Could do:

Inter-agency support

Support for parenting role

Enabling children and young people to choose to avoid harm

- Ensure alcohol and drugs dealt with together to ensure responsibility in decision making progress.
- Increase the breadth of the curriculum for 0-10 year olds to include work on drugs etc.
- Quality of conversation between young people/adults
- Responsibility over own body
- Self worth

Praising, acknowledging, recognising positive input of young people in all their diversity.

"Making a difference"

Positive media strategy

INCLUSION

Facilitator: Phil Badley

Scribe: Stuart Cowley

Delegates:

Peter Rowe	Disability Stockport
PJ Corte-Massey	Stockport Tenants Fed/Reddish Crime Panel/Community Health Forum
Keith Brierley	Stockport Citizens Advice Bureau
Caroline Harden	Independent Options
Tracy Markhall	Stockport Cerebral Palsy Society
Tudor Owen	Stockport Community Legal Services Partnership
Adrienne Conway	Stockport IAG Partnership
Marc Watterson	GMPTE

Workshop One

Aspirations and priorities for children and young people at risk in Stockport

Part one – comments on the proposed Statement of Intent

- Children at risk v. social services statement needs clear definition – promote positive outcomes
- What information should be shared for different categories of risk
- Wishy-washy feel good statements – stronger language and accountability – need to underpin with real services – not should, MUST!
- Need “commitment” not “intent”
- Good intentions need more than that to focus on work skills
- How to join the statement for all children and children at risk – make statement more positive
- Need to eradicate root causes
- About targeting resources – isn't the language provision in Stockport to teach mother tongue like in other boroughs
- Equitable housing provision
- More positive language
- Defining “risk” – need to be clear – define too tightly may exclude!
- Prevention of social exclusion key
- Risk of exclusion via peer pressure – need to educate to enable informed choices and involvement
- Need to instil values
- Potential for obvious/non-obvious risk factors

Part two – objectives for Inclusion

Highest level

- To achieve social inclusion and equality of opportunity for all children and young adults

Second level

- Promoting health equality
- User involvement in service design and planning
- Education around diversity issues schools/society
- Accessibility for schools and other buildings for children with disabilities
- Family support services