

‘Live, Love and Learn How to Use Your Voice.’

Making politics more accessible, relatable and relevant to young people and the importance of learning life-long skills at an earlier age



Big Local Youth Action Team Report Summer 2017
28/07/2017 to 29/08/2017



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About Us:

The Big Local Youth Action Team (11-18yrs) actively participate in the work of the Heston West Big Local, engage with public decision-making and inspire other young people while developing teamwork and communication skills. Youth Action Team members receive guidance and training while participating in projects that have a real positive impact in our community.

The Big Local Youth Action Team work on a variety of exciting projects: organising events, community activities, making films and campaigning on the issues important to themselves and our local community.

Our Goal/Objective

To make younger demographic gain a deeper understanding of politics and to learn life long skills.

We believe Politics and Life Skills can be integrated within other school subjects and we believe schools should be providing opportunities for children to learn the art of politics through creative and practical workshops.

We want every child (no matter background, family income or area they live) to have a fair opportunity to learn the importance of politics so when they grow up they will have a far greater understanding (make informed decisions); feel more connected to their community and hopefully steer away from negative influences surrounding them.

We can achieve this by:

- Working alongside the Hounslow Promise project to pilot our idea.
- Influencing policy-makers to make a change in the National Curriculum to integrate politics and life skills into primary and secondary education.
- Inspiring MPs to help young people get involved with politics, to make Politics relevant and relatable and to improve young people's knowledge of politics.
- Delivering a series of workshops, assemblies, activities on politics and life skills at schools and community centres aimed at children, teens and families.
- Supporting our teachers/school to help make a change.
- Training and recruiting a network of caring adults in the community to be part of our programme.
- Get our message out to the wider community and gain support from residents to professionals.
- Defy negative perceptions of politics and to inspire young people to have a voice and feel confident expressing themselves positively.

Problem, Vision, Change

Life Skills: Not every child has the opportunity to learn basic life skills at home due to various potential barriers (i.e. busy parents, lack of home support, overcrowding homes, language etc). Learning life long skills at an earlier age will help children become more confident, conscious, proactive and productive members of society. Learning about challenges, failures, successes, money, health (mental/physical), online/offline safety, dealing with difficult people, cultures, disability, public speaking, work, housing, risk management, body image, relationships, etc. Life Skills will enable children/young people to have the ability to deal with everyday life problems and be able to find positive and practical solutions. Young people will naturally come to understand and respect their fellow citizen.

Our vision is that young people involved with the Youth Action Team/caring adults from the community will be able to deliver interactive and engaging Life Skills workshops/awareness sessions, before, during or after school. These workshops will cover all aspects of Life Skills.

We hope children will become more confident, feel proud and to learn to accept and love themselves. Children will also be able to make difficult/complex decisions and be able to make new friends and develop meaningful and positive relationships.

Politics: Young people felt their voices didn't matter (especially with the Brexit vote) and that many of them didn't really understand politics well enough to help make decisions, the media was too influential in important matters such as voting and most of their parents didn't understand either.

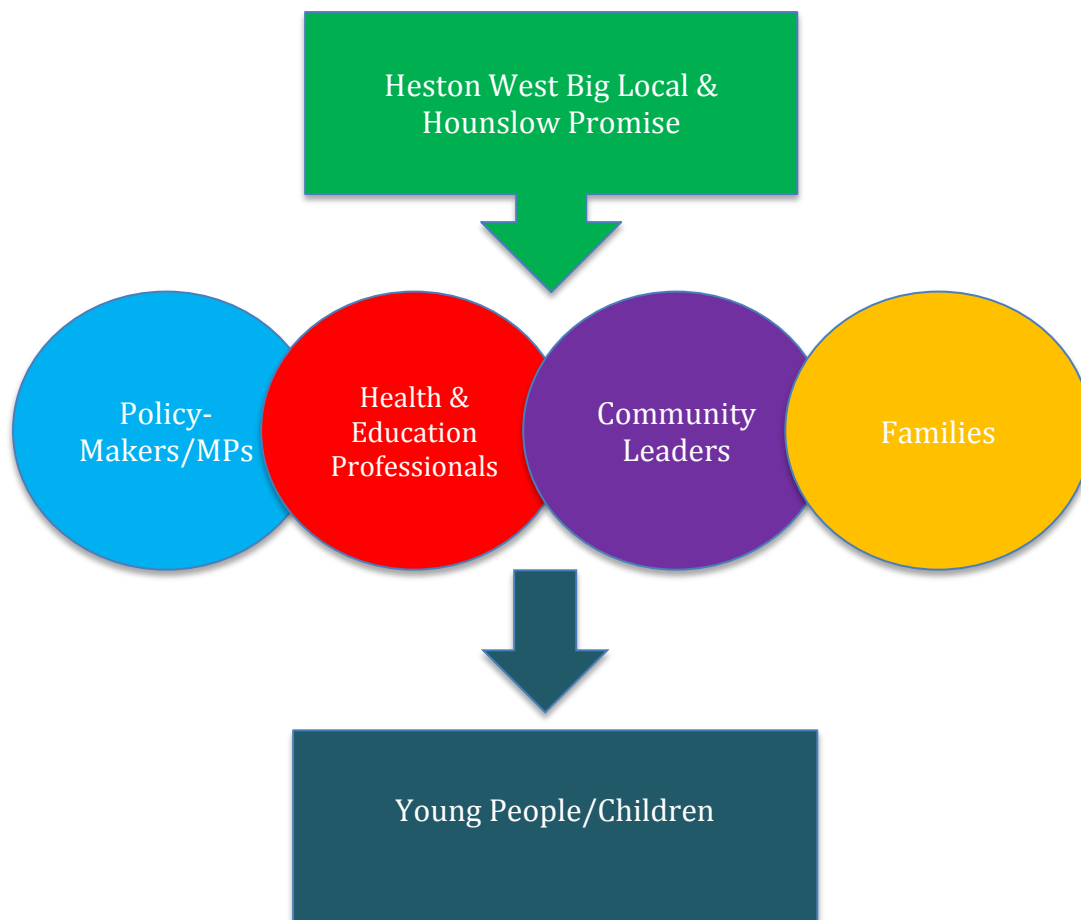
They also believed that if young people understood democracy, British values and how the UK Government works, more young people will feel part of the UK and their community and proud to be a British citizen.





Stakeholders, Relationships & Targets

We have targeted our campaign to policy-makers and influential professionals representing departments of health, education and children. We also will be working with teachers, community leaders and families.





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Outcome:

We would like support from Seema Malhotra and her team to join us and help us plan, design, develop and deliver our Politics awareness and Life Skills programme to our schools and to our community.

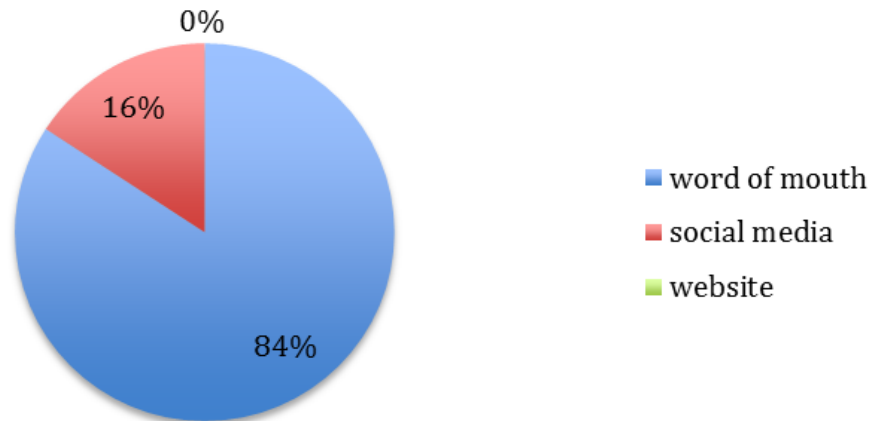
Thank you for your time. We look forward to your valued feedback and support. Read more about our journey at www.hestonwest.org/youth-action-blog

Sincerely,
Big Local Youth Action Team



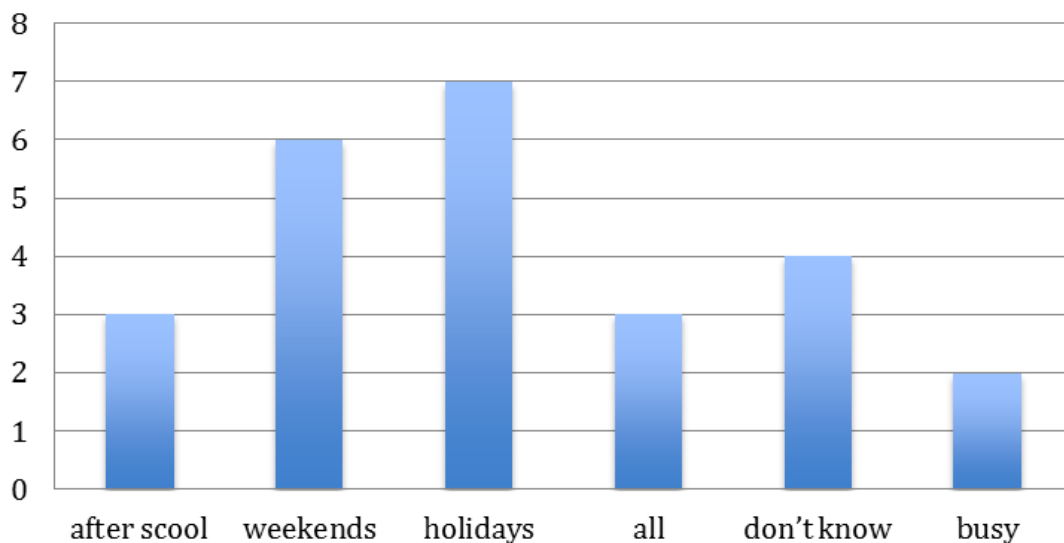
Heston West Big Local Survey Review

Where do you hear about our community events?



We found that many of the people have heard of the event through word of communicating with other people instead of websites, also a few people have located us through your social media accounts, more so than anywhere else. This suggests that we need to promote our websites and social media accounts so people are more up to date with what we are doing and are aware of upcoming events. The fact that a lot of people have heard about our organization through word of mouth suggests that it will be really successful if our volunteers talk to their peers to get them involved.

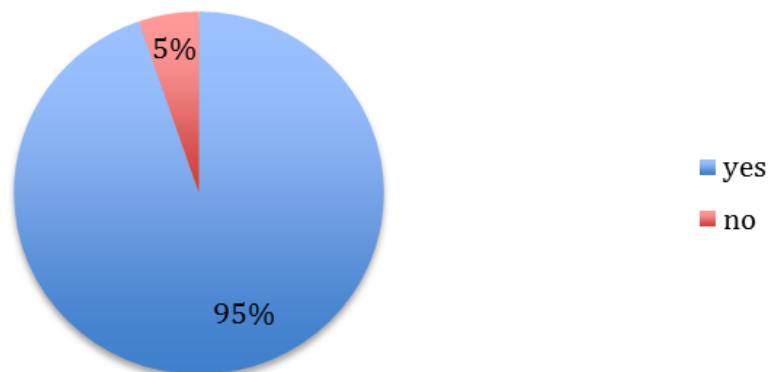
When do you have free time to get involved with the community?



Q: When is the best time to ensure most volunteers come?

A: We found that volunteers and other residents in our community are mostly free during the holidays and weekends, which suggests that we need to keep this fact in mind when we plan our events to get the most people involved. We have found that most teenagers are free after school, which is really helpful as we can get them to plan and organize the campaigns and events which will make it more productive, getting as many young people as possible to lead their own projects at times they are free.

Do you think volunteering is important?

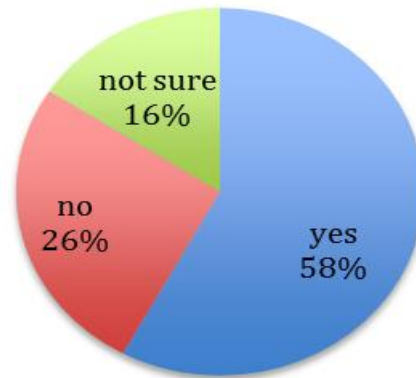


Q: Do you think volunteering is important?

A: From the survey, we found that many of the people who take part in our events feel that volunteers are beneficial for the community. We believe this is because through volunteering, the events and activities being held improve communication between people within the community. Many of the people surveyed were of the older demographic, suggesting that older people/parents are willing to engage in volunteering and work with younger people.



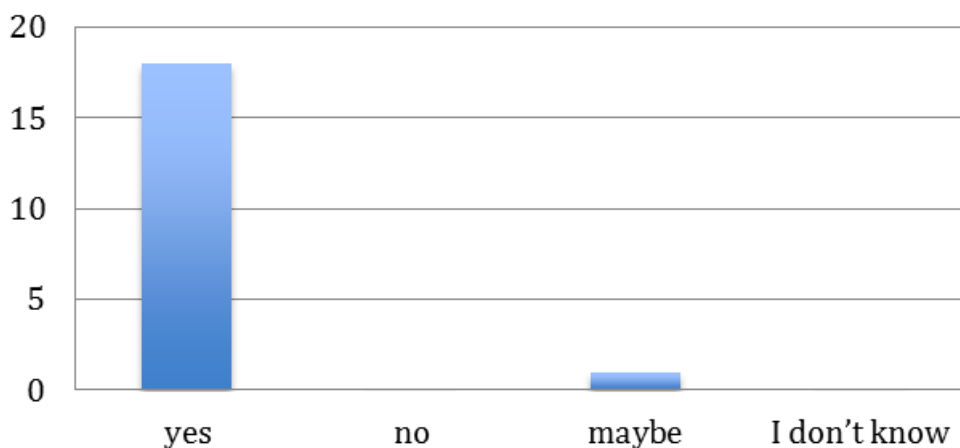
Are you concerned about your future?



Q: How is the future looking?

A: 42% of the people surveyed are not sure about their future. This is a huge number that we did not expect. This emphasises the need for opportunities for our young people to develop intellectually and emotionally, helping them secure their future.

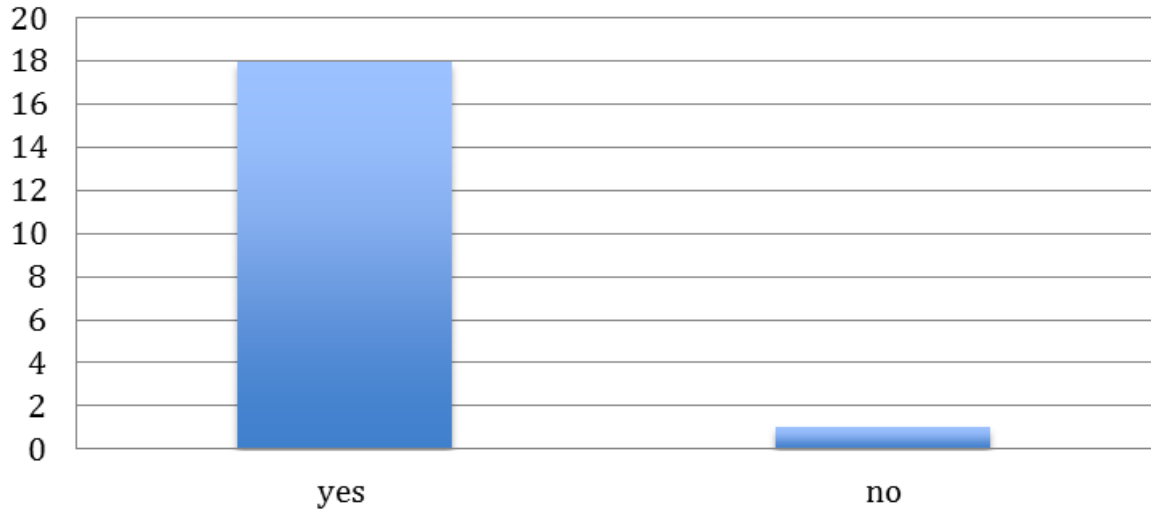
Do you think Big Local events are making an impact in the community?



Q: What does the public think of The Big Local events?

A: The most helpful thing we have gathered from the survey is that 97% of the people who attended the event believed that Big Local is having a positive impact on our community in order to make it a better place to live.

Do you think politics is influenced by the media?



Q: How much of an impact does the media have on politics?

A: According to the people surveyed, media has a substantial influence on politics and therefore we don't really get to see the true stories, but rather a biased view told by the BBC news presenters. As the Youth Action we need to teach others about politics and what really happened.