

11 Million Takeover Day

The Giant Paper Chain Project

A Summary of Ideas



Hull: The family friendly city where no child is left behind



Hull's Giant Paper Chain Event – A Summary of Ideas

In November 2007, Professor Sir Al Aynsley Green, the Children's Commissioner for England, launched the first 11 Million Takeover Day. This would be an opportunity for adults to celebrate the importance of children and young people in our society and for the 11 million children in England to have a say.



On 7th November 2008, as part of the second 'National Takeover Day', Hull City Council launched its Giant Paper Chain Appeal. This appeal asked the children and young people of Hull to think about their goals for making Hull **a family-friendly city**.

Thousands of tiger printed strips of paper were delivered to schools and youth groups across the city and on 24th February 2009, seventeen schools brought their completed paper chains to a special event held at the KC Stadium, where the children's ideas were linked together to form a giant paper-chain that circled the pitch at the stadium.

Some of the children and young people who participated said Hull is already a nice place in which to live: "keep the city's environment a happy and enjoyable place to live in" and "leave it just the way it is". Other children and young people came up with lots of ideas about how Hull could be made more family friendly. This short report summarises the main themes that emerged from children and young people's ideas.

The comments made by children and young people show that they have many of the same concerns as other people living in the city, and they have lots of ideas about how things could be made better.

The main suggestions for making Hull more family friendly were:

- Clean up the city
- Tackle crime, anti-social behaviour and bullying
- Deal with alcohol, cigarettes and drugs
- Provide more things for children, young people and families to do, at an affordable price
- Improve attitudes and behaviour, and
- Care for the environment



“My goal to make Hull a family-friendly city would be...”

Looking at each of these themes in a bit more detail...

➤ **Clean Up The City**

Many, many children and young people want to see Hull ‘cleaned up’; they want people to stop littering the city, they want more bins to help people keep the streets clean and they want something to be done about graffiti.



“Clean up Hull”

“Get rid of all the litter”

“Have more respect for Hull”

“Don’t drop litter in the streets and put chewing gum in the bin”

“Have more bin collections and more road cleaners”

“Don’t just clean your own mess. Clean other people’s mess as well”

“Stop graffiti and people doing it”

“More bins so people don’t drop rubbish”

“Fines for rubbish and dog poo”

“Put more bins around Hull so it doesn’t look so messy and horrible”

“Have graffiti clubs instead of public walls”

➤ **Tackle Crime, Anti-Social Behaviour And Bullying**

Many children and young people in Hull are worried about crime and in particular about violence (including knife and gun crime), bullying and anti social behaviour:



“Make Hull less violent”

“No knife crime”

“Stop gangs going to parks”

“Less stabbings and criminals”

“Cut down on anti-social behaviour”

“Stop people fighting”

“Stop bullying”

“Stop gangs”

“Stop people being violent in front of children as it stays in their minds”

Some children and young people suggested ways to achieve this...

"Have more laws"

"Have more police on patrol"

"Close pubs and clubs early to stop fighting"

"Keep bad people locked up for 100 years"

"Stop people bullying – don't make people bullies and don't be a bully yourself"

"More argument classes"

➤ Deal With Alcohol, Cigarettes And Drugs

Children and young people are aware of the dangers of alcohol, drugs and smoking and they want something to be done to tackle these problems:

"Get rid of all drugs, cigs and alcohol"

"Stop underage drinking and smoking"

"Help people to stop drinking alcohol and smoking cigarettes"

"Get all the druggies out of Hull"

"No alcohol in the parks and streets"

"Stop people selling drugs"

"Take away vending machines that sell cigarettes"

➤ Have More Things To Do



A lot of the children and young people's suggestions for making Hull more 'family friendly' were for there to be more activities for children and young people to do - both with their friends and with their families. Some of the most popular requests were for:

"More youth clubs and activity groups"

"More summer activities"

"More sports activities in school and at weekends"

"Fun activity days"

"More entertainment for the family"

"Water parks"

"I want to be able to go on holiday with my family"

"A place for us to hang out and get fit"

"More fun activities in the city centre"

Other requests included: more fairs and festivals, a Viking museum, a theme park, an animal park, funfairs in parks in the holidays, a giant climbing frame in the city centre, street events, a racing track for bikes, a skateboard park, more places to play football and more parks.

Children and young people also want activities to be more affordable; many children and young people asked for cheaper or free activities that they can get involved in with their families and friends:

- "More free events"
- "Swimming pools to be free"
- "I want to be able to do sports with my family at an affordable price"
- "Free places for the family to visit"
- "Give families free activities"
- "Lower the cost of children's activities"
- "A free day on the buses"



Many children and young people thought improving parks would make Hull more family friendly; they want more and better parks, which are well maintained and provide activities for children and families.

- "Make parks better and repair things that are damaged"
- "More parks and climbing frames"
- "More parks for kids/families"
- "A park near our homes"
- "More parks and family friendly places"
- "More parks and improve the ones we have"
- "More park activities"
- "Keep parks clean and keep dogs on leads"
- "Better facilities in parks"
- "More family parks"
- "Have safer and cleaner parks"

Although parks are very popular, some children and young people are worried about the crime and anti-social behaviour that sometimes takes place there; a number of children suggested ways in which parks could be made safer.



- "No drugs in park"
- "No alcohol in parks"
- "Stop gangs from going to parks"
- "Parks with wardens"
- "More police in parks"

➤ **Improve Attitudes And Behaviour**

Many children and young people think that our attitudes and behaviour towards one another makes a big difference to the 'friendliness' of a city; they want people to be nice and be considerate:

"Be nice to everyone"

"Be kind, helpful and nice"

"Help others"

"Be nice to people and they will be nice back"

"People to be less prejudiced"

"Make Hull a no tolerance zone, have courses to help families get on together"

"Stop people swearing"

"Don't swear in front of children"

"Stop racism"

"Everyone to have manners"

➤ **Care For The Environment**

Some children and young people want Hull to be more 'environmentally friendly' and 'wildlife friendly':

"Be eco friendly"

"Stop chopping down the trees"

"Make the city more energy efficient"

"Stop pollution"

"Recycle more"

"Protect wildlife"



These were the main themes that emerged from Hull's second Takeover Day event, however there were many other good ideas suggested by children; for example "parents spend time together", "use a pound or 50p of (Hull) City tickets to go towards hospitals" and "look where you're going so you don't bump into people"



To read more ideas from Hull's children and young people, visit the Clued Up website at

www.cluedupinhull.com