

Young Voices

Launch of 'Funky Teens' Youth Clubs

'Funky Teens' is the name chosen by young people involved in setting up a new youth club programme, based in centres in Heathfield, Eastbourne and Uckfield.

These new 'Funky Teens' clubs are open to 13 - 19 year olds and will ensure typical youth club activities and services are available to young people with disabilities. The young people will be able to take part in activities such as music workshops, outings, talks and advice on relationships, together with the opportunity to meet and share experiences and broaden their circle of friends.



Young People enjoying a music workshop at a Funky Teens club

Karen Burchell , Funky Teens Co-ordinator said *"'Funky Teens' clubs enable young people with disabilities to be part of a youth club provision where they can socialise with their friends, access their local community or take part in an organised workshop. The young people are excited to have a club where they can come and meet their friends, take part in new activities and contribute ideas towards the planning of their club programme.*

Being part of the Youth Development Service enables the 'Funky Teens' clubs to develop a programme of activities that offer informal education and access to the wider service."

Run by the Youth Development Service, the clubs will operate a rota system with each of the three centres opening on alternate Saturdays. They are equipped to accommodate a wide range of disabilities, including autism, ADHD, cerebral palsy and those who need wheelchairs.

They run an open door policy and families can contact the organisers and arrange to visit the centres. Anyone interested in attending one of the Funky Teens youth clubs should first email [Karen Burchell](mailto:karen.burchell@youthdevelopment.org.uk), Funky Teens Co-ordinator, or tel. 01273 479790. You can also download their leaflet [here](#).

Fear and Loving – true stories that tackle homophobia



A new DVD has been launched to help tackle homophobia amongst young people in East Sussex.

Fear and Loving highlights the experiences of young people growing up lesbian, gay or bisexual in the county. In the film they talk about experiences of 'coming out', being 'in love' and reactions from families.

The film also shows young people talking about their experience of homophobia in school and the support that heterosexual young people can give their lesbian, gay and bisexual friends.

Fear and Loving was produced by East Sussex Children's Services and is intended for use in secondary schools and other relevant youth settings for young people studying at key stages 3 and 4.

It can also be used widely as part of the personal development programme and citizenship, as well as an integral part of Sex and Relationship Education.

For more information on Fear and Loving, or for a copy of the DVD, please contact [Shaila Sheikh](#).

New Youth Cabinet - new priorities

Over 16,500 young people from across East Sussex have chosen the representatives who will be their voice on the county's Youth Cabinet for the next two years.



Of 33,418 young people on the electorate from the schools, youth centres and detached youth work taking part, the Big Vote '07 turnout was almost 50% - the second highest in the country based on last year's figures.

Such a fantastic result was only achievable thanks to the amazing support from secondary schools, colleges and the Youth Development Service.

As part of the Big Vote, more than 12,000 young people were consulted on the three issues most concerning them, which are:

- places to go
- things to do

- stopping smoking and drugs

The Youth Cabinet will run three campaigns about these issues over the next two years and feedback from the consultation with the young people will inform the priorities of the Children and Young People's Plan.

Over the past year, the Cabinet's three campaign issues have been bullying, safety and exams. They have succeeded in helping set up an anti-bullying charter and are now in the process of encouraging schools across the county to sign up to it.

On safety, members of the Cabinet have worked with the county's Safer Communities Partnerships to produce a leaflet on safety for young people and are piloting safety workshops.

They have also produced a leaflet for GCSE and A-Level students on the theme of pressure surrounding exams.

To find out who are the Youth Cabinet members in your area, visit www.eastsussex.gov.uk and search *voice for young people*. For more about the Youth Cabinet in East Sussex, email [Unite Participation](mailto:unite@eastsussex.gov.uk).