

Have Your Say!

Drug and Alcohol Event

1st June 2011

Evaluation Report



Voices 4 Wellbeing
Rochdale Borough Local Involvement Network

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Introduction

On the 1st June 2011, Voices 4 Wellbeing held a *Have your Say* event for youths from across the Rochdale Borough. The event focused on drug and alcohol misuse and its purpose was to engage with and involve young people from the Rochdale Borough in the development and improvement of local Drug & Alcohol Services the events four main objectives were

1. To raise awareness of Drug & Alcohol Services already available in the Rochdale Borough
2. To provide the opportunity for young people of the Rochdale Borough to ask questions about Drug & Alcohol Abuse services available locally
3. To provide the opportunity for young people of the Rochdale Borough to *have their say*
4. To provide feedback to local service commissioners and make formal recommendations for service enhancement

The event took place at Richmond Hall in Rochdale. Approximately 70 people attended the event of which 35 were youths from all four townships across the borough of Rochdale. Groups of youths were accompanied by youth workers. The event which took place over the course of an afternoon, included three presentations from local organisations; Early Break, the Drug and Alcohol Action Team and Greater Manchester Police. The youths were also able to answer questions set by each organisation using interactive *Ask the Audience* equipment loaned to Voices 4 Wellbeing by Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale Primary Care Trust. There was also the opportunity to take part in Voices 4 Wellbeing's Interactive Road Show (IRS) survey, which had been adapted especially for the event with questions focusing on drug and alcohol misuse.

In addition to the speakers at the event, a monologue and poem were performed by youths. The event closed with two *lived experience* speakers, one a recovering alcoholic and the other a lady who had been married to an alcoholic.

Though the event was well attended and deemed a success, it was decided that an evaluation of the event would be carried out. The purpose of the evaluation was to gather views from the youths and youth workers who had attended the event to find out what worked, what did not and what might be improved upon for future events for young people. The data collected will enable Voices 4 Wellbeing to make improvements when planning future events and provide feedback for the speakers attending the event. The evaluation may also be useful for other organisations planning to hold engagement events for young people.

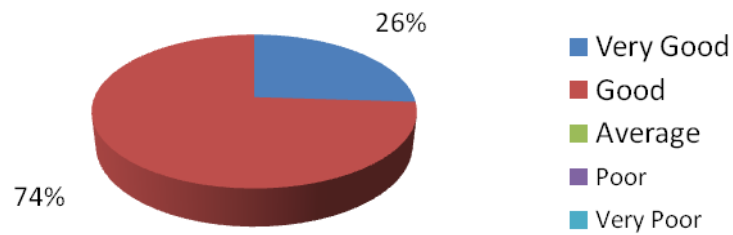
The Evaluation Design

To enable data collection an evaluation sheet was designed (see appendix 1). Though the evaluation sheet would provide some feedback Voices 4 Wellbeing also decided rather than simply providing the evaluation sheets for the youths to complete, that visiting the youth clubs would also provide the youths with the opportunity to discuss the event further and provide more qualitative data. It was hoped that all of the youth clubs which participated in the event would be visited. However it was only possible to visit 3 of the 4 youth clubs. Those whom Voices 4 Wellbeing was unable to visit were provided with the evaluation forms to complete and collected at a later date. This report therefore provides an evaluation based on the information collected from all youth clubs and includes both quantitative and qualitative feedback.

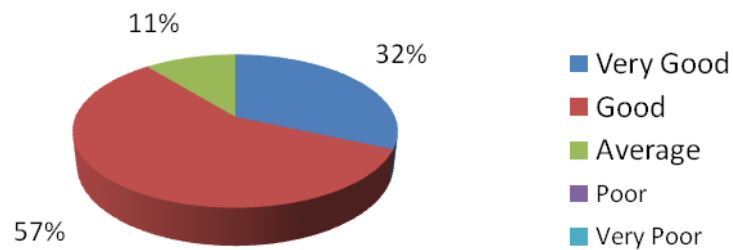
The youth workers were also given the opportunity to provide feedback and did so verbally and via email.

The Results

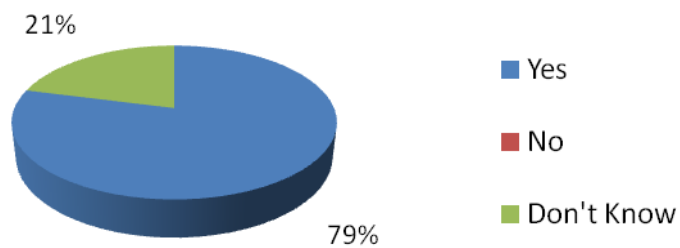
How did you rate the venue?



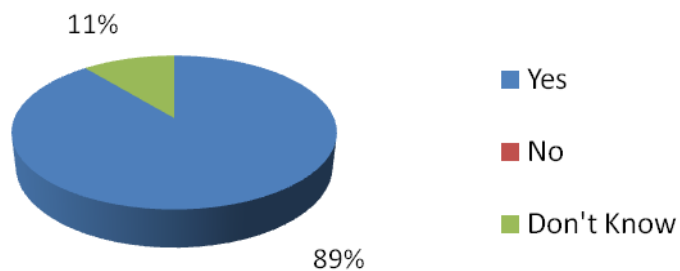
How would you rate the refreshments?



Programme for the afternoon: Was it clear, did you feel you knew what was going to happen?

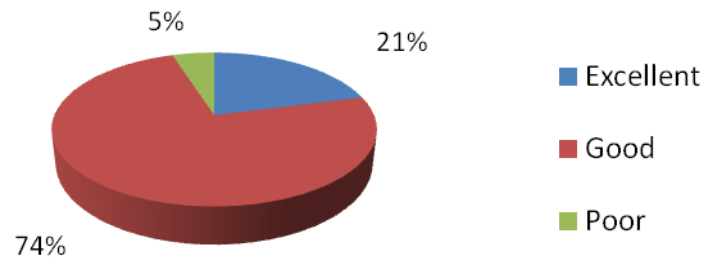


Did you feel the right professionals/speakers attended?

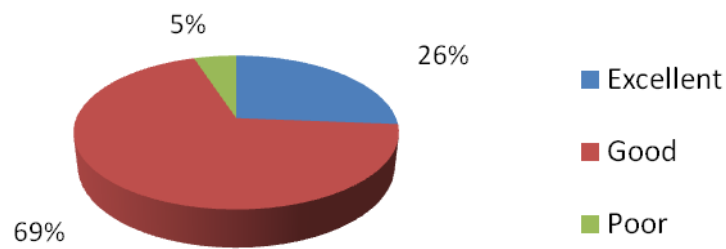


How did you rate the presentations?

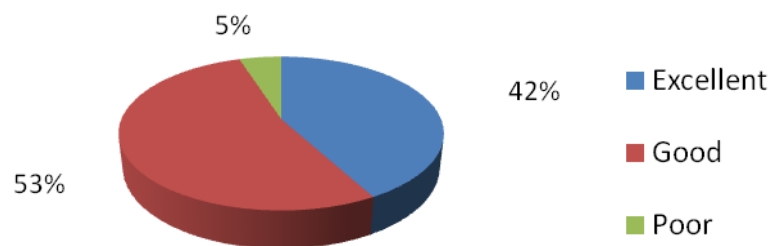
Early Break



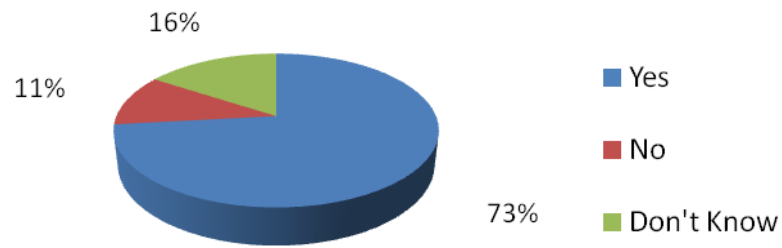
Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT)



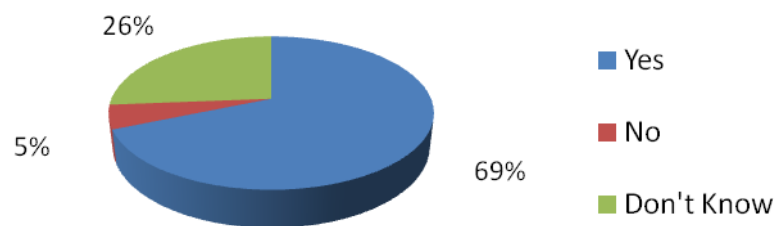
Greater Manchester Police



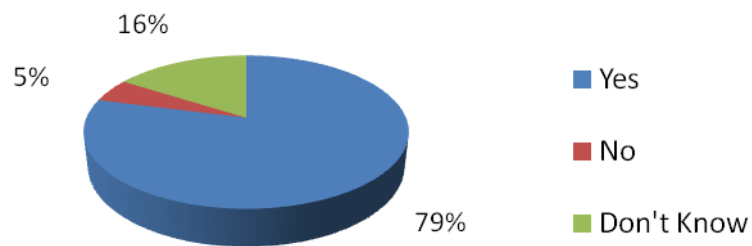
Did you feel that your questions were answered?



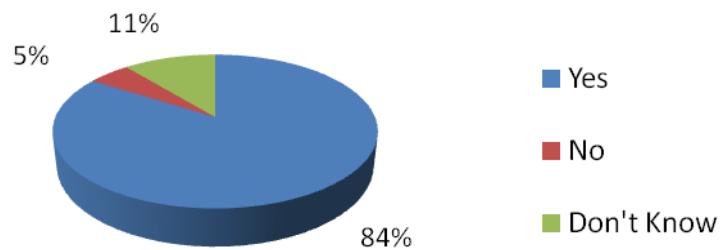
Did you feel as though you were listened to?



Did you find the event interesting?



Would you attend another of Voices 4 Wellbeing's events?



Evaluation Questions and Responses

Any other comments in relation to the presentations e.g. length, did you understand what the speakers were talking about?

- *Didn't understand some of the words used (Female: Aged 14)*
- *I understood the presentations quite clearly, I did understand what they were talking about but some of them were a bit too long and I got a bit confused on a few. Overall it was presented very good. (Female: Aged 14)*
- *I understood but I think they were jumping from one thing to another and it didn't flow (Female: Aged 16)*
- *I really understood most of the presentation and I was very touched by the personal stories. The way it was presented and the way it was put together was very enjoyable (Aged 16)*
- *I did understand all about Voices 4 Wellbeing and I understood some of the slide shows. There was only about 3 I didn't understand what the other people were talking about or what they meant. (Female: Aged 12)*
- *Some of what the speakers said I understood some other things I didn't understand. (Aged 12)*
- *Couldn't understand the DAAT Speaker (Male: Aged 15)*
- *Some of the people could have spoke louder and made it a little shorter (Female: Aged 13)*
- *I liked the pizza they was nice (Female: Aged 12)*
- *The speakers could have done more talking (Female: Aged 14)*
- *I didn't think it was going together all together properly (Female: Aged 12)*
- *No (Female: Aged 15)*
- *No there's no comments to make. (Female: Aged 12)*

- *I think that some of the presentations were a bit long and could have been cut down a bit. (Male: Aged 16)*
- *Yes (Female: Aged 12)*
- *Too Many Facts and figures (Male: Aged 15)*

Further comments made during post event visit discussions, re: Presentations & Speakers

- *Service user swearing; I found this shocking coming from an adult speaking to young people, but I don't think it mattered when the young person swore during the monologue*
- *I found the pace too fast*
- *PCSO was good*
- *PowerPoint poor, too small (short), did not flow*

What might have made the event more interesting?

- *No, I don't because all interesting (Female: Aged 12)*
- *More interactive instead of just listening (Female: Aged 15)*
- *More games (Female: Aged 12)*
- *More games (Female: Aged 14)*
- *Nothing because it was good (Female: Aged 12)*
- *Make it more fun 😊 (Female: Aged 13)*
- *Use more Words we would understand and involve the audience more (Female: Aged 14)*
- *More physical activities to get us involved instead of listening because it gets a bit boring and confusing after a while. Also time to discuss and get*

involved with things in a group to get to know each other better.

(Female: Aged 14)

- *If we could dance; more info; more different people coming and letting us learn more other stuff, more food and more button exercises. (Female: Aged 16)*
- *More people (speakers) to give us information. Also if we as the audience were more involved. More slides where we can use the buttons (Remotes). (Female: Aged 16)*
- *I think there should have been interactive activities between the presentations just like we did with the remote control things where it looked like Who Wants to be a Millionaire. (Female: Aged 12)*
- *To make the event more interesting is maybe act out something that could happen, using people our age. By doing this, it will make us entertained and understand at the same time. (Female: Aged 11)*
- *More interesting stuff e.g. More interactive things (Male: Aged 16)*
- *More interactive things (Male: Aged 15)*
- *More activities (Female: Aged 12)*
- *We could have been more involved with acting or something like that. I think it should be more interesting and fun. (Female: Aged 13)*
- *They could have involved us more by acting stuff out and interact with us more (Female: Aged 17)*
- *More interactive for us to get involved with (Male: Aged 15)*

Further comments made during post event visit discussions, re: *What would have made the event more interesting?*

- *More Ask the Audience*
- *More Physical Activities*

- *Might have been good to use ice breaker exercises so we could get to know each other a bit and interact with the other people at the event.*
- *More stalls*
- *Possibly have tabletop discussions following 'lived experience' sessions while emotions and thoughts are high, may bring about interesting and interactive discussions. Discussions did take place in the mini buses on the way home rather; this may have been more useful at the actual event.*
- *Discussions after each section would have been good and could be facilitated by the youth workers who could then feedback.*
- *Interactive games*

Other comments:

- *I enjoyed the last speaker ('lived experience speaker' was married to an alcoholic) This was the best part!*
- *The monologue was really good*
- *I enjoyed the questions and answers after the monologue*
- *I liked the Early Break stall*
- *There were some mixed feelings about whether the groups of youths attending should have been mixed up rather than sitting on tables remaining within their own youth club groups.*
- *Mixed groups would have been better, could have used ice breaker exercises*
- *I don't think I would have had the confidence to ask questions if I hadn't been with my own group.*
- *If you were to have group discussion session at future events I would feel better staying within my own group*

Youth Worker Feedback:

'Hi here is my quick evaluation of the event; I thought the venue Richmond hall was good and easy for parking. The food was good for the young people (not sure about adults) The presentations were very mixed the early break one could have been a lot more interesting with some interaction with the young people, showing them the drug box and the jar with the tar in for the smokers. Your talk (Lived experience talk: Married to an alcoholic) was the thing that really hit home, the PCSO's talk was I feel a bit regimental. And the presentation with all the facts and figures just went over the young people's heads. To end on a positive note the voting handsets were a good idea.'

(Heywood Youth Club)

'Early Break was disappointing; this is not what I have seen in schools. Also not enough scope was made of Ask the Audience; better use could have been made of this making it more interesting for the youth.'

'My personal thoughts on the conference are that it was very good and very well organised. The personal stories really struck a chord and the monologue was excellent. I felt that the DAAT presentation and the Early Break presentation appeared to be pitched more for adults rather than young people and some of the information went over the heads of the young people. The food and the voting procedure were a real hit with the young people. It would be great to build on this conference and make it an annual event.'

(Milnrow Youth Club)

'I thought the event was a very positive event for young people and I think overall the young people got a lot out of it. The comments from the young people were very positive.

I thought the interactive aspects of the day were particularly good. The monologue seemed to grasp the young people, as did your talk from a personal perspective.

I felt that some of the speeches weren't really aimed at the young people and it was difficult for them to keep concentration for the length of time that some of them lasted. In my opinion the information needed to be given in a more interactive way.'

(Rhodes Youth Club)

Discussion

Overall the youths felt that the right professionals spoke at the event, 89% agreeing and only 11% said that they did not know. However, comments made about the presentations varied. Though generally it was felt that the presentations were good, some felt that the Early Break presentation was too long. Additionally youth workers commented on Early Breaks presentation noting that the presentation was disappointing and could have been more interactive; Early Break could have made more use of their stall and the interactive questions.

Some commented on the facts and figures given out during the presentations, *'too many facts and figures' '...the presentation with all the facts and figures just went over the young people's heads.'* Others felt that the pace of the presentations was too fast or did not flow, making some of the information difficult to understand.

Visiting the youths after the event it was apparent that all enjoyed the monologue and the lived experience speakers, in particular the last speaker who spoke about her experience of being married to an alcoholic *'is what really hit home'*. Lots of discussions took place on the mini buses when the youths were travelling home. It was agreed that it may have been useful to hold some table top discussions facilitated by the youth worker straight after the lived experience speakers as these evoked poignant discussions not captured at the event.

What became most evident from the evaluation is that though most of the youths felt that they were listened to, had their questions answered and found the event interesting most felt that the event could have been more interactive. Many suggestions were made such as more Ask the Audience, some physical activities, more information stalls, interactive games, table top discussions, interactive role play and interaction during the presentations i.e. open discussions.

Conclusion

It is clear from this evaluation that though most enjoyed Voices 4 Wellbeing's *Have Your Say* event, there are improvements which can be made for any future events with youths. The youths enjoyed the monologue and the lived experience speakers the most, possibly as these all made the issues around drug and alcohol misuse more *real*, whereas perhaps *facts and figures* may have failed to do so. Role play and other interactive sessions may prove more useful at future events, to get youths thinking more about real issues and how these may impact on their health their lives and the lives of others.

It is worth noting that during the planning phase of events Voices 4 Wellbeing make every effort to involve people from the target audience group. This proved difficult in the planning of the drug and alcohol event. Nevertheless this evaluation has provided useful feedback, which can now be used to aid the planning of future events for young people and may also assist the speakers invited to attend.

Appendix 1



Have Your Say!
Drug and Alcohol Misuse
1st June 2011

Your feedback is extremely important to us as it helps us to make improvements & shape future events. Please take a few minutes to answer the questions below. All information obtained will be kept confidential & will only be used to evaluate the event.

Venue

How would you rate the venue?

Very Good Good Average Poor Very Poor

How would you rate the refreshments?

Very Good Good Average Poor Very Poor

The Event

Programme for the afternoon: Was it clear, did you feel you knew what was going to happen?

Yes No Don't know

Did you feel the right professionals/ speakers attended?

Yes No Don't know

How would you rate the presentations;

Early Break

Excellent Good Poor

Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT)

Excellent Good Poor

Greater Manchester Police

Excellent Good Poor

Any other comments with in relation to the presentations e.g. length, did you understand what the speakers were talking about?

Did you feel your questions were answered?

Yes No Don't know

Did you feel as though you were listened to?

Yes No Don't know

Did you find the event interesting?

Yes No Don't know

Would you attend another of Voices 4 Wellbeing's events?

Yes No Don't know

About You

Gender?

Male Female

Age?

How old are you? ____

What might have made the event more interesting?