



Amplify 2nd Birthday & Investing in Children Award Celebration

Introduction

Amplify is a Young Person's Project, designed & delivered by young people to allow them to share their views & experiences on the things that keep them happy, healthy & feeling good in order to shape local health & social care provision.

We have achieved a lot in two years since the Amplify project started, including our recent success in receiving the *Investing in Children* Award. This wouldn't have been possible without the continued commitment & enthusiasm of all the young people who have been involved, here's a snapshot of our achievements & projects over the last two years:

3643 children & young people have engaged in the project since it began in October 2015

Safeguarding Report

Amplify Champions facilitated workshops with young people to gather their views on abuse, exploring how awareness can be raised & they can be protected. A report was produced which they presented at both the Safeguarding Communications & Engagement Committee & the Local Safeguarding Children's Board. Those in attendance were asked what they would do to involve young people & how they would make the lives of young people

safer. Responses will be followed up later in the year.



Mental Health Awareness Campaign
Amplify Champions at Darwen Aldridge Enterprise Studio designed & delivered a Mental Health Awareness Campaign, holding a bake sale & going out onto the streets of Darwen to raise awareness by speaking to residents. They designed a questionnaire to gather the views & experiences of young people which will enable us to influence services while shaping our future work & activity.



Future in Mind

Amplify Champions attended the CAMHS Future in Mind Event on Thursday 8th June at Walshaw House in Nelson, presenting to over fifty professionals from across Lancashire. They received excellent feedback on the work they had been involved in & partnerships were identified for upcoming projects. They also took part in workshops & networked with others attending. Amplify Champions will continue to influence Childrens & Young peoples services across Lancashire.



Homeless Project

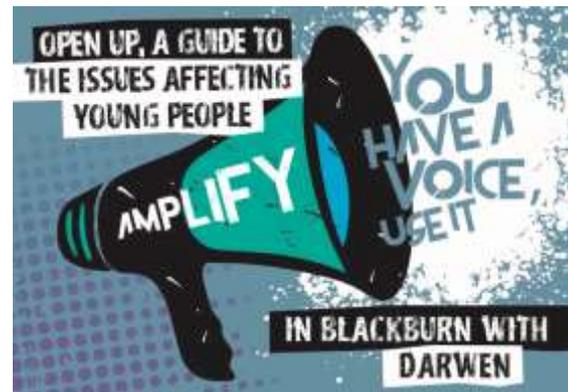
As part of our Homeless Project we worked in partnership with Nightsafe to deliver creative workshops to allow us to gather the views & experiences of young people experiencing homelessness. Over seventy young people engaged in the project, providing valuable feedback to influence future provision. A BBQ was held to launch the report, with professionals & those who had participated in the project attending.



Social Cinema

Social Cinema is a project which screens films around Blackburn with Darwen touching upon issues affecting young people to enable an informal & accessible way to engage. Films have been shown at Blackburn Youth Zone, in schools & at Nightsafe. A trip to Manchester to watch 'My life as a courgette' was a great success & Amplify Champions have gone on to facilitate discussions about the issues raised in the films.

'We really enjoyed the cinema trip as the situations in the film were serious but it showed it in more of a simpler view so young people could understand. This film could be good to show children in a school where maybe children are being bullied for coming from a different background.'



Open Up

Amplify Champions facilitated workshops with over 250 young people to identify the key issues affecting children & young people in Blackburn with Darwen. They went on to gather the content for the resource, once this had been gathered they were involved in both the design & distribution.

The resource raises awareness of the key issues affecting children & young people while providing information on where they can access information & support.



Chair & Co-Chair

Amelia Walker & Robyn Farnworth have become Chair & Co-Chair of Healthwatch BwD's Amplify Project. They will take a lead on the design & delivery of the project, while feeding back to the Healthwatch board to ensure children & young people's views are listened to & have influence across the organisation. Amelia Walker, chair has already taken a lead on the Youth Offender project, she says *'this has been a great opportunity for me, I have had so many opportunities that I probably wouldn't have had without being involved. I'm passionate to ensure young people's voices are heard.'*



British Institute of Human Rights

On Thursday 27th April 2017 Healthwatch Blackburn with Darwen in partnership with British Institute of Human Rights delivered a Human Rights session to young people as part of their Human Rights as part of the *Care and Support: A Human Rights*

Approach to Advocacy project, of which Healthwatch BwD we one of six partners. Those who attended learnt about what human rights are, what rights they had & how they could use their human rights to empower themselves. The session held at Darwen Aldridge Enterprise Studio so several young people from the school attend, along with young people from Blackburn Central High School, Blackburn Youth Zone & Nightsafe.



Children's Ward

Amplify Champions visited the Children's Ward at Royal Blackburn Teaching Hospital to gather the views & experiences of those staying on the ward. They used a variety of engagement tools to engage with those staying on the ward, a report will be published in October 2017 in partnership with Healthwatch Lancashire.



Leapfrog

Amplify Champions worked alongside Leapfrog at Lancaster University to design new tools for participation, while also adapting tools to be used in schools & youth settings. Using the tools has enabled young people to

facilitate independently with both confidence & creativity, with the tools used in a variety of ways to gather feedback on a range of issues affecting young people. A number of Amplify Champions from Darwen Vale High School featured in a short film about working with young people which can be found at <http://leapfrog.tools/toolbox/working-with-young-people/>



LGBTQ Project

Healthwatch Blackburn with Darwen's Amplify project in partnership with Blackburn Youth Zone have been working together on an exciting project which aims to raise awareness of the LGBTQ community, challenge stigma & tackle hate crime. Young people attended the Stonewall Education for All Conference in Birmingham where they were able to meet young people & professionals from around the country & bring new ideas back to Blackburn with Darwen. They then developed a workshop with other Amplify Champions & BYZ members which they delivered to over 200 young people at Darwen Vale & Darwen Enterprise Centre.

One of the young people involved said *'The trip was educational as we got to travel and visit a university. I now think we would both challenge stigma around the LGBTQ community.'*

Ben Pearson, Project Manager at Healthwatch BwD said *'this has been a great project & both myself & the young people involved are excited to see how it develops further after the summer. In the meantime, I would encourage young people who identify as LGBTQ or allies of the community to attend Blackburn Youth Zone's LGBTQ Group. The group gives young people an opportunity to meet new friends, offers peer support & a range of exciting activities'*

Blackburn Youth Zone's LGBTQ Group runs every Tuesday between 5-6.30pm and is open to all young people across Blackburn with Darwen up to the age of 21.



The views & experiences of children & young people in Pennine Lancashire

Healthwatch Blackburn with Darwen & Healthwatch Lancashire were commissioned by East Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to gather the views & experiences of children & young people across Pennine Lancashire as part of their Local Development Partnership consultation.

Amplify Champions were responsible for designing a questionnaire that could be used across Pennine Lancashire to gather the views & experiences of children & young people. They then went out & spoke to children & young people in a range of settings & out on the street across Blackburn with Darwen.

In a three week period 564 children & young people provided feedback, with Amplify Champions giving their valuable time over summer to make it possible. A report will be published in late October 2017.



Collaborate, UCLAN

Three Amplify Champions have joined the Collaborate project as UCLAN. The project aims to explore how adults & young people can work together to share new ideas to improve the lives of children & young people. The project will run through till May 2018 & young people will be involved in running a series of seminars which they have planned.



Interview Panel

Healthwatch BWD has involved young people in two of its recent interview panels for project officers. They designed questions to ask candidates & had a say on who the organisation should employ. Amplify Champions will continue to sit on future interview panels to ensure all employees empower children & young people.



Super Enrichment Day, Darwen Vale High School

Amplify Champions have delivered a range of workshops as part of Super Enrichment Day over the last two years. They have identified relevant issues & then designed & delivered interactive workshops to both gather feedback & raise awareness on issues such as sexual health, drugs & alcohol, body image & relationships.



Darwen Aldridge Enterprise Studio
Healthwatch BwD have worked in partnership with Darwen Aldridge Enterprise Studio to empower students to get involved in a range of activities & roles within the organisation. Creative students were responsible for the design of the Amplify logo & ongoing work with Health & Social Care students has allowed us to link in with units of work whilst giving young people the ability to have real life experience & influence in the field.

Ongoing Projects

Eating Disorder

Amplify Champions sit on the Eating Disorder Task Group, they have been responsible for designing a questionnaire for children & young people, as well as facilitating workshops on eating disorders & body image.



Youth Offender

Amelia, Amplify's Chair has taken a lead on the Youth Offender project, while two further Amplify Champions sit on the task group. The project has involved those with lived experience in the design of the project & engagement with the youth court, probation, Nightsafe & BYZ has already commenced. The project continues until the end of January 2018, after which a report will be published.

Young people's experience of A&E

Young people will be involved in designing engagement tools to gather the views & experiences of young people using A&E. They will then facilitate engagement with the support of Healthwatch staff. This is part of a wider project exploring peoples experience of A&E at Royal Blackburn Teaching Hospital.

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