



Trust Question Time Event 24 January 2019 Feedback

What did you think of the event?

We all enjoyed the event very much. It was extremely well organised and executed. It was an excellent idea to expose students to this kind of forum for grown up debate. Wade Deacon would be willing to host this type of event at the end of the summer term. (Howard Mealey/Pupils, Wade Deacon)

First of all I would like to thank you for inviting Cavendish to this event, our students thoroughly enjoyed the visit and were extremely proud of themselves for speaking in front of so many people and asking their questions. (Kim Histon/Pupils, Cavendish)

I thought the event was extremely worthwhile and I know that the students who attended the event with me did so too. It was well organised and we felt very welcomed. It was interesting to hear the viewpoints of students in other settings and what their concerns for the future were. The students thought the event was amazing and they learnt a lot new things about what life is like for young people in Halton, particularly those who attend mainstream high schools. They found that their views about life in Halton and their concerns for the future were different to their own. (Clair Ball/Pupils, Chesnut Lodge)

I thought it was a very good opportunity to hear the views of some young people in Halton. (Ann McIntyre, HBC)

I thought yesterday was brilliant, I hope they are a regular event, Peter and I found it very informative. Thanks for letting me attend. Being the new kid on the block, I really enjoyed the event. I learnt a lot of what is going on in Halton and where it is accessed. (Lynne Hall, Halton SEND Carers Forum)

Tracy we really enjoyed the question time event. (Angela Woolfall and Sharon Canavan-Daly, Foster Parent reps)

I thought the event was brilliant thoroughly enjoyed it. (Peter Wills, Halton SEND Carers Forum)

I thought the event was excellent and good to hear young people's voices - we should do this more often. (Denise Roberts, Halton CCG)

Very good event, well organised. (Eileen O'Meara, Public Health Halton)

I just wanted to say a huge thank you to everyone, events such as this energise me, they remind me of why I do the job I do and I value the partnerships our teams have. These young people are our adults of tomorrow and we must continue to work alongside them to help them achieve whatever it is they aspire to. They should be very proud. (Libby Evans, NHS Bridgewater)

Loved it; really enjoyed being a panel member. Thought the student questions were excellent. (Emlyn Wright, OBA)

I found it really enlightening, in terms of how engaged the young people were in the whole process and it was a great opportunity to meet with a fantastic representation of the young people in Halton. (Helen Whittick, NHS North West Boroughs - Halton CAMHS)

What did you think of the event?

I think the event was really well organised and the Students were a credit to the schools. (Jane Tetlow, Cheshire Police)

Overall, I felt it a useful exercise and has the potential to be developed further into something whereby young people can engage directly with decision makers. (Phil McClure, Halton Youth Cabinet)

I thought the question time went really well. Questions were answered in detail. (Yvonne Smallman, Halton Speak Out)

OBA would be willing to host this type of event towards the end of the summer term or October/November time. All students said they enjoyed the event and they said it was good to hear how things are developing behind the scenes. They all said they really enjoyed being part of it – they felt involved and liked knowing what's being done about things that are important to them. They felt that hearing directly from professionals made it feel like things were being done. Students enjoyed the meet and greet opportunity at the start of the event. (Pupils/Stacey Snagg, OBA)

It was a good interactive event, and the prepared questions not only gave panel members opportunity to provide a response but also gave an indication of what matters to the young people. (Mil Vasic, HBC)

What worked well?

Good coverage of the issues and a good spread of schools involved in the questions. Timings were good. (Howard Mealey/Pupils, Wade Deacon)

The event was well timed for our students, it was long enough to be able to listen to the questions but short enough to sit and concentrate for the duration. (Kim Histon/Pupils, Cavendish)

One student thought the members of the police force that attended the event, answered the questions posed to them very thoroughly and they felt reassured. (Clair Ball/Pupils, Chesnut Lodge)

Questions being asked in advance, and themed – it was well hosted. (Ann McIntyre, HBC)

I did not realise so much was going on in and around Halton, covering many subjects, I was very impressed. I thought the layout of the event having a question time was very valuable. I will look forward to the next one. Having a good range of professionals answering the questions and it helped when there was more than one person to answer a question but giving a different view of the answer. (Lynne Hall, Halton SEND Carers Forum)

The young people spoke very confidently and the questions were all extremely relevant. (Angela Woolfall and Sharon Canavan-Daly, Foster Parent reps)

What worked well?

I think the panel and questioners were amazing, the questions were answered in detail and the children seemed confident. I loved the set out with the staggered stairs it all seemed very studio audience very BBC Question Time. (Peter Wills, Halton SEND Carers Forum)

The setting was good and the opportunity to chat to young people was good. The overall organisation and welcome was excellent. (Denise Roberts, Halton CCG)

The questions and panel worked well. (Eileen O'Meara, Public Health Halton)

I think the students asking the key partners worked well as they got the corporate response as opposed to a practitioners view. (Jane Tetlow, Cheshire Police)

I'd just like to feed back that I thought the Question Time event was fabulous, the young people were brilliant as always, their questions were thought provoking and insightful, they spoke with confidence into the microphone, the breadth of attendees was a credit to everyone that coordinated the event, the responses were from the panel covered a broad base and reflected consistency, the venue was perfect and I could go on.... (Libby Evans, NHS Bridgewater)

Venue, planning, information give prior. (Emlyn Wright, OBA)

I was really impressed with the range and scope of the questions that came in from young people. We managed to get through a lot of topics in not a lot of time. Young people managed to go away with masses of information - maybe even too much – but it was a useful to get lots of information out there. The venue was spot on and OBA were the perfect hosts. Despite some worries in the run up, it was a good turn out and shows that young people are keen to engage and participate given the chance. It has actually generated some interest in our participation groups and I had a few enquiries about getting involved in youth voice off the back of the event. (Phil McClure, Halton Youth Cabinet)

Students said they liked getting instant answers to the majority of the questions asked. Students enjoyed being able to speak directly to the panel. Students felt there was a good range of knowledge from the professionals so that all areas relating to the questions were covered. Students said they liked having the chance to think about and prepare questions beforehand. (Pupils/Stacey Snagg, OBA)

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What didn't work well

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For understandable reasons, certain panel members contributed more and responses were often too protracted and 'prepared'. I would have liked a little more spontaneity. (Howard Mealey/Pupils, Wade Deacon)

Our students liked to ask the questions but due to their additional needs they did not fully understand all of the answers that were given to them by the professionals. The students were late getting home after the event so were dropped off by school staff so maybe a morning session would be more beneficial to have more time. (Kim Histon/Pupils, Cavendish)

I felt the question/answer session felt very rushed towards the end. I felt the event was too short and it would've been nice if the students had, had the opportunity to speak to the members of the panel informally before the question/answer session began. The students felt that the event was too short. One of my students (with SEN) was disappointed that he never got to ask his question during the event, as he had spent some time practising it so he felt confident speaking in front of a large group of people. (Clair Ball/Pupils, Chesnut Lodge)

Not all schools were represented. Some of the schools only advised that they were attending just before the event. (Ann McIntyre, HBC)

I struggled to hear some people at the front. (Lynne Hall, Halton SEND Carers Forum)

The time went over really quickly and it's a shame that not all the questions were answered at the event. (Angela Woolfall and Sharon Canavan-Daly, Foster Parent reps)

My only critique would be to speed up the question to answer ratio, maybe try and direct the questions and control the length of an answer. (Peter Wills, Halton SEND Carers Forum)

It would have been helpful if we could have sat and chatted to the young people informally more and more time but appreciate that this may not be possible. Also we need to think our timings through and how we respond- there appeared to be a lack of opportunity to respond to some of the questions which might have been off putting for those young people who had taken time to write them and send them in. (Denise Roberts, Halton CCG)

Think most worked well. (Jane Tetlow, Cheshire Police)

Should have been a limit on time to answer questions. (Eileen O'Meara, Public Health Halton)

Would like to see more students attend, more time for all questions to be asked/answered or less questions? (Emlyn Wright, OBA)

I felt that some of the responses were maybe a little too long and technical to engage young people but I do acknowledge that it's really difficult to get the right balance on that though. I think if we really want to engage with the young people we need to find a way of making it more a conversation with them, rather than relaying information at them. So responses need to be shorter and encourage young people in the audience to respond

What didn't work well

and interact with the panel to garner their views. I think maybe the panel lacked a little in terms of the political. Whilst the Trust is ultimately the people who can and do make the difference – I don't think it hurts to have a few people on there who can be a bit more political and perhaps a bit more challenging to the status quo. That would perhaps fire up and engage the audience better. (Phil McClure, Halton Youth Cabinet)

Some of the younger students (Year 7 and 8) said they didn't understand all of the answers but didn't feel there was an opportunity to clarify. Students felt that some of the questions were quite similar. Students said they felt some answers were quite long and described them going as perhaps going slightly off topic which then reduced the time for others. Students said they would have liked it to be slightly longer to accommodate more questions. (Pupils/Stacey Snagg, OBA)

It's strength was probably a weakness, in that there was little room for debate and discussion. (Mil Vasic, HBC)

Any other suggestions or comments?

A very enjoyable event, Tracy. We enjoyed being involved and thank you for all of the organisation that I know you will have put into the event. It was a great success. A suggestion for how this might work for young children at Primary school could be for youngsters working in smaller groups asking questions of experts who would rotate around the groups as the event progresses. (Howard Mealey, Wade Deacon)

We would be more than willing to hold an event at our school and we would love for you to meet more of our students and get their views from them. To make this more accessible for our students and primary students, the answers need to be more concise and direct. The professionals who answer the questions could potentially record their answers and then someone could make their answers more appropriate for younger students and pupils with SEND or send the answers to school staff earlier so we are able to explain the answers in detail straight after the event. For future events we would like to be more prepared for our pupils and we would ask that the full list of questions is sent to us so that we can symbolise it for our students and make them aware of the type of questions that may be at the event. We would love to be involved in forthcoming events as a school, and our pupils can give you a unique perspective in helping you to shape the future for the youth trust in their community. (Kim Histon/Pupils, Cavendish)

To consider accessibility for wheelchair users when choosing venues. Also, to do this type of event for younger children, you could make it less formal and maybe more of a round robin event, where pupils could speak/find about what the plans for Halton are in a more child friendly way. (Clair Ball/Pupils, Chesnut Lodge)

Would like to run this session regularly but also involve primary aged children. (Ann McIntyre, HBC)

The only other thing is, I wish it was longer as it was very informative. Well done I thought it was a great event. (Lynne Hall, Halton SEND Carers Forum)

Any other suggestions or comments?

We should have a separate Post 16 Question Time for the colleges and the school sixth forms. (Mary Murphy, Riverside College)

It was lovely that so many of our schools/college were represented. Really proud of all our young people that attended. (Angela Woolfall and Sharon Canavan-Daly, Foster Parent reps)

The event in my eyes was an amazing success and i thoroughly enjoyed every minute. Thank you for the opportunity to be part of the audience. (Peter Wills, Halton SEND Carers Forum)

Some of the questions couldn't be answered due to time constraints is there a possibility we could add on extra time for future events. (Yvonne Smallman, Halton Speak Out)

A positive experience to learn from. (Denise Roberts, Halton CCG)

Maybe next year do speed dating. (Eileen O'Meara, Public Health Halton)

Let's do it again soon!! (Emlyn Wright, OBA)

Our students said it was good to be invited to the event but they would like a greater focus on 16+ strategy/issues next time if possible. (Ben Barton/Students, Riverside College)

Nothing to add apart from do one in the Widnes area and invite more students. (Jane Tetlow, Cheshire Police)

Students suggested another opportunity to network at the end of the event so that they could perhaps discuss things further. Students suggested some more information and perhaps visuals about what the panel members do as part of their roles. To do this type of event for young children, students suggested giving each primary year group and area to form questions about. Keeping the event short and simple for younger children. Using more visuals to explain answers to questions. (Pupils/Stacey Snagg, OBA)

Suggestions/ideas.....

- Maybe it would be better to have less topics but more chance to explore them with audience participation.
- I would make the panel smaller – I suspect it could be confusing to have so many members and trying to squeeze responses from everyone is time consuming.
- Whilst I am always happy to host, I still think it would be preferable to find a young(er) person to do it - I think it would perhaps change the dynamic a little and empower the young people to speak more.
- Or else, we find time to do a little warm up session – just 15 minutes or so at the start before the panel are introduced to get them talking and confident to speak up and challenge where necessary.
- The prepared in advance questions are great but maybe we need to look at timings to try and squeeze in an 'any questions' section.
- I wonder if it would be worth developing interaction through social media during and after the event – asking young people to tweet in comments etc.

Any other suggestions or comments?

- Possibly a technical and moderation challenge - but perhaps empowering and would give us the chance to build a buzz around the event and a forum for young people to continue to the discussions with decision makers after the event.
- Could use a bit of technology like the stadium's voting buttons to incorporate some instant polling and surveys etc. So we hear a response about say for example knife crime and instantly poll the audience to ask something like – and I'm just coming up with this off the top of my head – “What is the most important thing we need to do to tackle knife crime in Halton? A) Education B) Stop and Search C) More police on the streets” etc.
- It might encourage young people to engage more and even encourage them to listen better to the panel responses as there's going to be a little quiz.
- I do think, and would be happy to try and find the time to support, this should become a regular event.
- I also think it would be beneficial to hold a slightly different more participative event for younger students – perhaps key stage 2? I think that would have to be a different format but it would be really interesting. (Phil McClure, Halton Youth Cabinet)