



Talking UP for a Change

Mike Stevenson

Here is a summary of your responses to the big questions asked

What experiences should all young people in Scotland have by the time they are 16?

- Do something new and exciting – experiencing and overcoming fear
- Tell their family they love them
- Travel and experience another culture – in Scotland and beyond
- Cuddle a baby and change its nappy
- Gain work experience (in Scotland or farther afield) where they are respected like an adult
- Enter a competition
- Participate in charity work
- Experience heartbreak
- Perform in the spotlight (in sport or on stage)
- Meet different role models
- Experience leadership and responsibility
- Spend time away from their parents
- Learn a musical instrument and/or perform on stage
- Have a debate with a politician
- Triumph over a personal fear
- Think about the meaning of life
- Learn from something they regret
- Climb a Scottish mountain
- Know how to manage money
- Learn another language

In a secular society, can we pick the values that we want to endorse in all schools?

- Be a team player
- Listen with an open mind – and learn from others
- Be resilient with ‘bounce-back’ ability (don’t fear failure)
- Make an effort to praise and recognise others – make it a habit
- Challenge the ‘negative minnies’
- Create positive energy and outlook
- Do things differently and create a buzz
- Create positive role models and start to become one
- Value each and every person (including yourself)
- Seek opportunities that meet your aspirations
- Help build the self-confidence and self-esteem of others
- Take responsibility for others as well as yourself
- Strive for excellence – set the bar high and dare to dream

What can businesses build into their cultures that can contribute to the education of our young people?

- Be more explicit in what you want from young people
- Invest properly in work experience – don’t just pay lip service
- Give work experience to people of a younger age

- Work with young people to find what they want – negotiate
- Give young people something interesting, challenging and of value to do on placements
- Develop champions to work with and run programmes for young people.

What can we do to help ensure that what is said and reported about young people is positive?

- Give young people radio and TV programmes – even stations
- Target young people's opinions
- Listen actively and deal in an interactive way – step back and allow young people's opinions to come through
- Have a young persons' charter committed to a balanced approach from the media
- Nurture a culture of role modelling – and accept that's it's okay to make mistakes.

What top qualities or attributes do we want our young people to be equipped with when they leave school?

- Enthusiasm for the future
- Self-belief and confidence
- Resilience – the ability to see things through
- Value team work
- Desire to contribute and be a responsible citizen
- Able to build relationships and consider the feelings of others
- Keen to learn and know where they can learn
- Positive with goals and ambitions

What people said about the event:

It was very heartfelt and heart-warming and I felt very honoured to be there. It's wonderful the mountains we can all move when we put our effort into it.

Kate Chapman, Communications Officer, Edinburgh Building Services

This was a fantastic evening full of fun and even emotion at times. The children were incredibly impressive both in discussion and performance and the leadership being shown to them by their head teachers is very impressive indeed.

Allan Sim, Director, Johnston Smillie Chartered Accountants

Two Heads Are Better Than One is the inspired vision of one man, a social philanthropist, who brought two communities together and a strata of people to get them talking, thinking and sharing ideas. This programme should be adopted throughout Scotland to effect the positive change already created by this initiative.

Lorna Pellet, Managing Director, Graduates for Growth

Thanks to Design Links and to the pupils and staff from Craigroyston and St George's schools for a superbly organised, stimulating and entertaining Talking UP for a Change event. Mike opened our minds to the possibilities and an eclectic mix of people with diverse backgrounds and a wide range of skills and experience became a community up for change. We listened to the voices and aspirations of our young people and left determined to create the right opportunities so they get the best possible start... aye and it was great fun too!

Dr Anne Hendry, Consultant Physician, NHS Lanarkshire

On behalf of the staff from the Castlebrae community I would just like say a big thank you for your invitation to an excellent and uplifting event last night. It was uplifting to know that there are adults out there interested and willing to take on board the agenda of nurturing our young people. It's always good to hear that you are not going it alone. We look forward to this journey together.

Pauline Sharp, Castlebrae Community High School