

Review Of CoPS (Council Of Portsmouth Students) meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2007.

On Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, Michael Powell, Amy Tucker And Sean Vick attended the recent review of CoPS meeting at the DJPC (Dame Judith Professional Centre in Cosham).

Discussion topics were as follows:

1. 14-19 Curriculum plan
2. The future of CoPS
3. What CoPS's role is as an organization

### The 14-19 Curriculum Plan

The 14-19 curriculum plan is an idea put forward between all organisations (city council, schools etc). It is hoped that this plan will be put into action as soon as possible.

The 14-19 curriculum plan initiative:

- The idea enables students to be able to stay on at school until they are 19 (optional)
- They are to learn the “basic skills” of life in order to achieve what they want to achieve in

later life (some may choose to also do the traditional curriculum-English, Maths etc)

There was a debate between those present on the 14-19 curriculum plan as some felt that some subjects were “meaningless” and “inappropriate” for them to use in later life (e.g I quote - “I’m not going to walk into Topshop and go  $x=5$  so what does a equal, am I?” ).

They also felt that staying on to school until there 19 was unnecessary unless they could learn things that would be of interest or use to them in later life (e.g Global Warming).

3 of the schools (out of 13) held a discussion with their head teacher on what their thoughts were about the 14-19 curriculum plan and how they think it would work best. Milton Cross, Springfield and St Lukes reported back to those present on what they discussed with their head teachers.

After break, Tim Stokes of PCC (Portsmouth City Council) came in to listen to our thoughts

on the 14-19 curriculum plan as well as to hear how we think we can take CoPS forward in the future. He later added towards the end of the meeting (I quote) “I think what you (CoPS) are doing for young people in schools is great and you are making a difference, lets not forget you are representing ALL young children in Portsmouth which is a huge responsibility”.

### The Future of CoPS:

Today we split into groups to discuss the future of CoPS and how we think we can improve it, but also what we are doing which is making an impact on young people. The group discussions included SOME of the following:-

- CoPS would like to be recognised city wide with a possibility of also been recognised nationwide as well
- CoPS feels that they ARE “making a difference”
- CoPS feels that they are “figures of authority”
- CoPS doesn’t want to be recognised as something “that their not”.

We split into groups to create our own “fantasy” school/teacher/student (my group discussed what things schools would need to improve or include, to have a successful student voice council). All groups reported back to those present on their ideas.

We then later split into groups to discuss certain issues (my group discussed what makes an effective CoPS rep.)

We all enjoyed being part of the meeting and will be reporting back to the school soon.

Many thanks for reading!

Michael Powell (Goodwood Class)