



KidsCount

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ATTACHMENT

Kids Count was founded in response to the growing problems faced by children and young people, along with the failure of existing organisations to find suitable solutions to these issues. It is a grass-roots organisation aimed at finding practical solutions to a broad spectrum of issues that affect children and young people in urban and rural communities. It is a national organization founded by Linda Lawrence.

The aim of Kids Count is to actively seek out a whole range of projects through a network of champions and advocates that are helping to provide local and national solutions for problems such as, persistent and prolific offending, education, gun and knife crime, gang crime, discipline, bullying, drug and alcohol addiction, homelessness, fostering and adoption. These are just examples of some of the areas that Kids Count is currently focusing on.

Kids Count is bridging the gap in finding intellectual and practical solutions. Its objective is to be the foremost authority on successful local projects that provide national solutions to a wide range of problems that affect children and young people. It aims to achieve that goal, not by following a particular ideology, but by networking, searching out existing ,successful, and practical solutions from across the country and refining them when necessary with the help of experts in the relevant fields and the sharing of best practice .Once the solution has been found, they promote, network with the relevant agencies and lobby Parliament, individual Ministers and other relevant bodies to get these initiatives adopted across the country.

Kids Count is not affiliated to any political party, nor is it a charitable body, but has links with various organisations and works with all sections of society to give children and young people a voice.

Kids Count believes that young people should be involved in the process of finding solutions. Therefore as part of their organisational structure they have a youth board made up of young people drawn from all walks of life, many of whom have been recommended to Kids Count by their network of contacts and organisations, who they work with to reach as many young people as possible.

The young people on the youth board involve themselves in many varied voluntary activities including creating, organising and running workshops in schools, or participating in similar events held at such places as the Round House in Camden. They also participate in forums such as the YJB National conference, the Capita Conference, the David Cameron Conference and a similar meeting organised by the Home Secretary Jacqui Smith, giving their practical insight and views from a youth perspective.

Kids Count has an Advisory Board which provides strategic advice and assistance, to both the youth board and the organisation itself.

Kids Count is a grass-roots think tank aiming to find practical solutions to the broad spectrum of issues that affect children and young people in urban and rural communities

Kids Count is not a registered charity. It is a not for profit organization which is limited by guarantee, with no shares, and receives no government funding or grants.

In the summer of 2006 Kids Count assembled a group of volunteers to form a working group to write a report on preventing and reducing knife crime. The volunteers, from voluntary, private, local authority organisations and youth representatives, all have extensive experience and expertise in working directly with young people in community settings aimed at reducing knife crime. Especially important in the work of the group has been a unique contributions made by young people and their families directly affected by knife crime. The report was published in July 2008 entitled "KNIFE CRIME, Bringing the voice of the street to the House". Members of the group included the Metropolitan Police and Greater Manchester Police, Operation Trident, the Damilola Taylor Trust and organisations like "Defending Da Hood" for example and individuals like Mike Penning MP, chairman of the all party Parliamentary Child and Youth Crime group to name but a few.

Each year Kids Count hosts Fringe meetings at the three Party Conferences. Please look at the link below to see some of the coverage featured on the BBC News. http://news.bbc.co.uk/player/nol/newsid_7000000/newsid_7004200/7004267.stm?

The Kids Count website address is www.KidsCount.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

PP Mike Edwards

(Linda Lawrence)
Founder and Director

Join Kids Count continuing campaign "to put Children and Young people at the heart of policy making and of the family".

