

Welcome to the June 2006 edition of the Angus Citizens' Panel newsletter, which has details of the surveys we want you to help us with this time, plus feedback on the most recent surveys.

This time we are asking you to complete three surveys and provide details about yourself so that we can work out how different kinds of people feel about the issues.

ALCOHOL MISUSE SURVEY

This month the Drugs and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) are keen to find out about your experience of the problems that the misuse of alcohol causes and your own use of alcohol.

The survey asks about, your experience of the anti-social behaviour that alcohol can lead to, your own use of alcohol, and your views on alcohol misuse support services. The results of the survey should confirm what the DAAT already knows about the way people use alcohol.

More importantly it should also identify improvements in the way the problems caused by alcohol misuse are dealt with and in the support people can receive in tackling their own misuse or helping friends and relatives with their misuse.

If you would prefer to complete an online survey it is available at www.angus.gov.uk/alcohol or via the www.angus.gov.uk/panel web-page.

MUSEUMS SURVEY

The Museums Survey is part of a Tayside wide project. The basic aim is to gather information about your use of museums, why you visit, or indeed don't visit them, what you like and dislike, and what would encourage you to pay them a visit.

All of this information will help to develop the service, although, there are obviously other

factors, such as budgets and buildings to be taken into account.

If you would prefer to complete an online survey it is available at www.angus.gov.uk/museums or via the www.angus.gov.uk/panel web-page.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY STRATEGY SURVEY

The Environmental and Leisure Services committee of Angus Council recently endorsed the Physical Activity Strategy for Angus. The strategy was produced by the council, in partnership with NHS Tayside and both Dundee City Council and Perth and Kinross Council.

In order to make a real difference in improving levels of physical activity in Angus, the council wants to make sure that it is prioritizing those improvements that will deliver the best results. This means looking at all forms of physical activity, not just sport. This means things like tea-dances, walking, housework and DIY and playing with children, grandchildren and friends fall within the scope of the survey!!!

The survey first covers the physical activity you do, and the things that prevent you doing more. It then looks at public space, leisure facilities and services, and groups that you can get involved in to be physically active. It finishes by asking about priorities for improvements.

Again if you would prefer to complete an online survey it is available at www.angus.gov.uk/physical or via the www.angus.gov.uk/panel web-page.

CHILD PROTECTION SURVEY

You may recall that the most recent mailing included a survey from the Angus Child Protection Committee, which exists to ensure all agencies working with children, young people and their families work well together to support them and protect them from abuse and neglect.

Details of further consultations can be found via the internet at

www.angus.gov.uk/hys

The survey was based on the fact that children and young people often rely on family, friends or neighbours seeking help on their behalf when this is needed. The Committee wanted to ensure members of the public knew where to get help for children and that they were confident about the help children received.

The initial results of the survey highlighted that, of those who responded, 12% had previously reported a concern about a child, of these people, 73% knew what action had been taken and 60% thought the child received the help they needed.

It is very reassuring to know that most of the panel members who replied to the survey indicated that they would report any concerns they had about a child. Less reassuring is the fact that 22 individuals said they would not report concerns. The reasons they stated included a lack of faith in the agencies who help children, fear of reprisals and a preference for taking action themselves by approaching the parents.

There will be further analysis of the results before the Committee decides on the action required as a result of the findings of the survey.

VOLUNTEERING – A BIG THANK YOU!

In March 2006 we undertook research to find out about your experiences and involvement in volunteering. We were very pleased that 388 of you returned the questionnaires. Although not everybody filled in each question the information you provided is very valuable to Volunteer Centre Angus in its work to develop volunteering.

The survey findings reinforce the view that volunteering in Angus is buoyant and most of the respondents have been involved in some sort of volunteering. Out of the 196 responses, 105 people are involved in volunteering at the moment with another 91 involved recently.

Volunteering in Angus is estimated to have a value of £30 million; this is based on the mean average working wage. Your responses reinforce the value and commitment of volunteers in Angus.

Copies of the survey findings are available through Volunteer Centre Angus. Volunteer Centre Angus has a range of volunteering opportunities available and provides support to volunteer involving organisations. For further information, contact Gary at Volunteer Centre Angus on 01241 875525.

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT PUBLIC MEETING IN MONTROSE

The Scottish Parliament is hosting a public meeting at the Swallow Park Hotel, John Street, Montrose on Monday 21 August, 7.30-9.30pm.

The event provides an opportunity to learn more about the Parliament, what it is and how it works. Importantly, the meeting will also outline the various ways in which local community groups and individuals can become involved with the parliamentary process.

Attendance is free of charge and refreshments will be provided. Please note places are strictly limited and must be confirmed in advance. To confirm your place, contact, Paul Anderson, Community Outreach Officer, 0131 3485357, paul.anderson@scottish.parliament.uk.

OTHER SURVEYS

Unfortunately we cannot tell you about all of the consultations that take place, however, you can find details of all exercises on the Have Your Say section of the Angus Council web-site www.angus.gov.uk/hys, or via ACCESSLine on 08452 777 778.

Thank you again for all the help you have given in the past. Your answers have helped to improve the services that are provided by Angus Council and its partners.

Details of further consultations can be found via the internet at

www.angus.gov.uk/hys