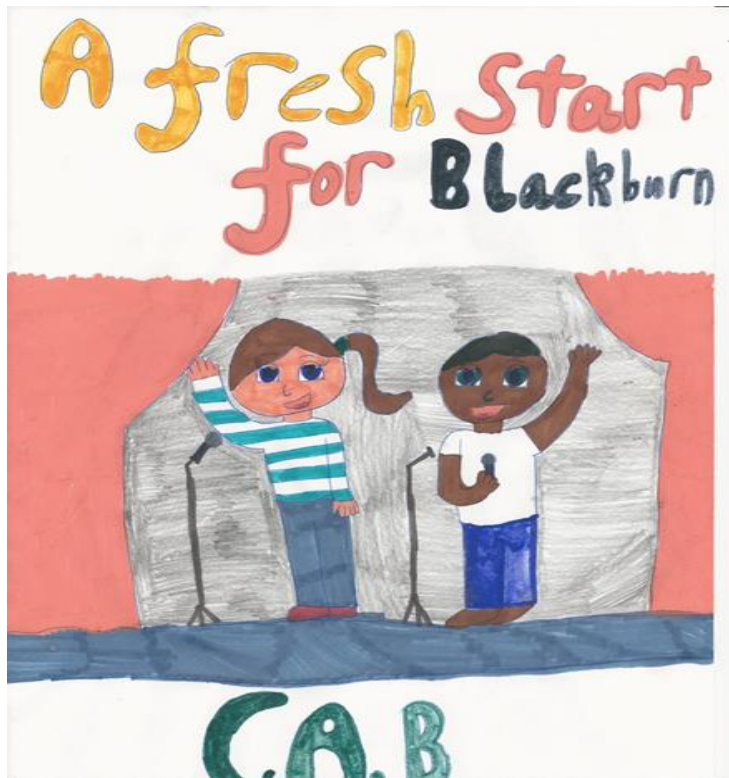




Blackburn Schools P6/7 2015 Conference



A Fresh Start for Blackburn - Blackburn Schools P6 & P7 Conference

The pupils at Blackburn, Murrayfield and Our Lady of Lourdes worked alongside the Youth Action Project (YAP) Peer Educators from early February exploring what they saw as the problems and issues that were having an adverse effect on their community. They spent several hours discussing the issues, solutions to them and who could assist them in bringing about change. **Appendix A** provides the information on what the pupils identified as the positives and suggestions for improvement to Blackburn along with the issues of concern and possible solutions.

Pinewood School worked alongside YAP music to explore their views and thoughts with regard to Blackburn. The children decided to express their views by putting their own words to the music of 'Don't Worry, Be Happy' which they recorded onto video and showed on the day of the conference.

Blackburn, Murrayfield and Our Lady of Lourdes decided to concentrate on one area that being the area they felt most strongly about. They were:-

Blackburn	Litter & Dog Poo
Murrayfield	Bullying
Our lady of Lourdes	Graffiti & Vandalism

The following outlines the results of the discussions from each school on their targeted issue.

Blackburn Primary – Litter & Dog Poo

<u>The Problem</u>	<u>Our Solutions</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It makes Blackburn look; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Disgusting, - Trashy”, - Messy, -“Sick”, - Untidy, - “Rotten”, - Unclean, - “Scabby”, - Rusty. • Makes a bad impression, • Doesn't make people want to stay if they're just visiting, • Doesn't look nice, • Seems disrespectful, • Makes people not want to live in Blackburn. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More bins, • Dog poo bags on dog poo bins, • Designated area for dogs to poo • Signs showing where to find bins • Public bins should be coloured • Start a clean and tidy group • Place bins next to all benches and at bus stops • More community involvement in keeping the area clean and tidy • Posters and ore advertisement.

Murrayfield Primary – Bullying

BEING BULLIED CAN MAKE PEOPLE FEEL....	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alone, • Withdrawn • “Horrible” • Feeling “in pain”, • Wanting to run away, • To escape • Feelings of worthlessness, • Confused, • Angry, • Can hurt for a long time, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embarrassed, • Like it shouldn’t happen to them, • Undeserved, • Sad, • Suicidal, • Like they should self-harm, • Like they have no one to turn to, • Like the world is against them, • Nowhere is safe, • Weak.
<p>If someone is being bullied it effects the whole community. Everyone should feel safe where they stay. It’s not fair if they don’t. It affects the whole community because it’s everyone’s job to make sure that everyone else is ok.</p>	

Our lady of Lourdes – Graffiti & Vandalism

WHAT OUR ‘ARTISTS’ DO	
<p><u>The Problem</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It makes the area look uncared for, • It’s not nice to look at, • It ruins the good things, • Its poorly done, • Lots of nasty things said/drawn, • Makes us sad, • Wastes money, • Ruins our fun, • Gives young people a bad reputation, 	<p><u>Our Solutions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional art projects, • More community clean ups, • More police, • More street cleaners, • More bins, • Heavier fines, • Fire proof equipment, • More education, <p>Make parents responsible for the damage,</p>

Conference Discussion Session

During the conference all the groups, which included a mixture of adults and pupils, were asked to discuss the following questions which were set by the class reps:

1. What do you like about living in Blackburn?
2. What would you suggest could be done to help improve Blackburn by you?

The full list of responses is attached at **Appendix B**

The class reps meet every Friday afternoon with Alison Kerr and they have been looking at the results to question 2. They have identified the answers that they believe are possible to

deliver and have placed them under a number of categories, namely environment, summer activities, bullying/alcohol & drugs, art/graffiti and policing.

The reps have identified that help and assistance from other agencies is needed in order to bring about the changes that have highlighted. As such they have written to a number of people to come along and discuss the actions with them.

ENVIRONMENT	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flower gardens • More nature Walks • Tree Planting • More safe road crossings • CAB Garden • Vegetable Patch • Decorations/ Flowers at centre • Duck Pond 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less Litter • No dog poo • More dog poo bins • Educate about dog poo • Less broken glass • More bins • Community clean ups/ Litter pick ups • More recycling • Eco Centre

SUMMER ACTIVITIES	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entertainment • Summer Youth Club • Gym • Kids club • Nature walks • More stuff for youthie 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More sports & cycling • More variety of activities • More disabled activities • Training ground • Swimming Pool (access to St Kentigern's)

BULLYING / ALCOHOL & DRUG USE	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop bullying • Less fighting • People being judged less • More helpers Less second hand smoke • Stop making cigarettes able to buy • Less alcohol use, sell less to shops • Less beer • Alcohol awareness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less drug use • Less drugs • Stop drug use • Send addicts to rehab • Bigger chemist

ART / GRAFFITI	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graffiti art room • Art projects • Art wall • Murals to add more colour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less Graffiti • Less Vandalism

POLICING	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less fighting • Make Blackburn a safer place • Stop fires at play parks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fireworks at skatepark • Security at skatepark • CCTV

Positives and Suggestions for improvement to Blackburn, Issues of Concern and Possible Solutions.

POSITIVES ABOUT BLACKBURN	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Parks, • Lots of little shops, • The Community Centre, • Good schools, • Skate-park, • The residents, • Lots of grassy areas, • The mill, • CAB, • The Gala day, • Blackburn's Got Talent, • The "Trinly", • The youth club, • The football club, • The Library, • The community spirit, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community events, • The Pete moss, • The houses, • Fun days, • The street art, • Alison – CAB, • The Cycle track, • The football pitch, • Lots of places for us to play, • Lots of different people. • Susan Boyle, • The homeless flats, • Discos, • "Graham" – Peer educators, • "Charlie" – CAB • People are friendly,

SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT TO BLACKBURN	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water park, • Circus, • Zoo, • McDonalds, • KFC, • Burger King, • Krispy Crème, • Dogs trust, • Cinema, • Bakery, • Starbucks, • Costa, • Crazy Golf, • Ice cream shop, • Spa, • Lush, • Apple store, • Amazon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swimming pool, • Bigger skate park, • Gym, • Blackburn Garden, • Indoor Skate Park, • Trampoline Centre, • Soft play, • Pond, • Theatre, • Museum, • Football Cages, • Health Cafes, • New shopping Centre, • Art Projects, • Tile art, • Flower Gardens, • More sun.

ISSUES OF CONCERN	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • litter and general waste including smashed glass, (Young People also noted pollution), • Bins not being used, • Smoking (resulting in second hand smoking), • Alcohol - Accessibility appears to be an issue. Underage drinking, although young People noted alcohol use across all ages was a concern to them, too many pubs, • Fights, • Drug use, • Lack of care for the environment, • Vandalism (areas include the skate park) and graffiti, • Bullying, (Cyberbullying, physical abuse and verbal abuse) - this was a subject highlighted by all groups extensively, • Fires and the misuse of fireworks. Young People discussed the issues previously when fireworks were being thrown at people (predominantly during the bonfire/Halloween period), • Peer pressure, • Dogs poo, • Shoplifting, • Egging houses, • Lack of facilities and life choices, • "Not enough people in CAB", • Weapons, • Stone/snowball throwing, • Racism, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verbally abusing the elderly, • "Stranger danger" – this was highlighted by more than one group • Damaged pavements, • Drugs, both use and dealing, • Lack of variety for shops, • Teen pregnancy – this was highlighted by more than one group, • Broken glass, • Theft, • Tobacco use and accessibility, Counterfeit cigarettes, • Lack of sporting opportunities and facilities, • Gambling, • Doesn't feel safe enough – young people feel as if Blackburn doesn't feel as safe as they would like it to be, • Fake ID, • Too much unhealthy food available, • Sectarianism, • Sexism, • Lack of street lighting, • Not enough speed bumps or traffic lights, • Ill kept bushes, • Lack of reliable bus service, • Placement of bottle banks – young people wanted ore bottle banks but in a better place, • Mud pipes.

SOLUTIONS TO OUR PROBLEMS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More community events – events that bring all community members together, not just the young or the old, • A winter festival, • More police on the beat, • More fire service visibility in the area, • Anti-bullying campaigns – including poster campaigns and classes in schools, • More animals, • More colour in the area – highlighted by more than one group. Young people wanted the area to look brighter. One group said they would like it to look like Balamorie, • A Blackburn monument – dedicated to the area and the residents of Blackburn, • More youth facilities - "More things for kids", • More parks, • Better public transport service - Improved transport was a topic discussed at length, • More environmental projects -* Plant more flower gardens, trees and green parks,

- **General fix up of the area,**
- More sports teams – including girls sports teams,
- **Introduce a little more colour into Blackburn. I.E. paint the area in brighter, more appealing colours, making Blackburn aesthetically more appealing was discussed at length, make the schools look more colourful,**
- **Improved education with a wider choice of classes – dance, drama, gymnastics, crafts, Painting, P.E.**
- Young people would also like an indoor skate-park,
- Have drawings by community members placed around the community,
- Weekly disco,
- More bins – Not just dog poo bins,
- A fire station,
- More doctors,
- **Regular area clean-ups – not just council clean ups but community clean ups,**
- More lollipop people,
- More speed bumps and traffic lights,
- **More shops/improved shopping centre, A bigger and better shopping centre was discussed at length, including adding a fruit and veg shop,**
- **Have less shops selling unhealthy food and takeaways,**
- **More sports facilities – young people wanted a variety of sports available including fitness classes and healthy living classes,**
- More healthy food advertisements,
- Preventative measures to reduce underage alcohol consumption and access to tobacco,
- “Paint the flats”, Roughcast flats,
- Harsher penalties for those who supply fireworks, tobacco and alcohol to underage young people,
- New and more street lighting,
- Dog walking tracks,
- **More professional street art.**
- Creation of a gym,
- More community activities,
- Bigger fines for dog fouling,
- Improved central heating for houses,
- More and improved resources for schools (such as clubs for story writing),
- A hospital,
- Less pubs/access to alcohol,
- **Better education on: drugs, alcohol, sex education, bullying of all kinds, Improved education and more varied topics of education was discussed at length,**
- **More CAB,**
- More security cameras,
- More zebra crossings,
- More buildings and houses,
- **More holiday decorations,**
- More street cleaners and community clean up’s,
- Fixing pavements,
- **Fix old damaged buildings such as the flats,**
- More support for substance abusers,
- More sports equipment,

A Fresh Start for Blackburn – P6 + P7 Schools Conference 24th March 2015
Discussion responses

Q1.What do you like about living in Blackburn?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This conference is good and we get to meet other pupils ○ Friendly x 2 ○ Friends ○ Drama club ○ CAB because they give us a voice ○ Kind ○ Fun ○ Nice people ○ Lots of things ○ Parks x 8 ○ Gala day x 6 ○ Blackburn's Got Talent x 2 ○ Some houses ○ Friendly folk ○ People are nice to me ○ King George V Park ○ Skate park x 20 ○ Youth club and the activities you get there ○ The friendly people ○ Alison – CAB ○ Sandy park ○ We like the changes being made in Blackburn ○ The Council ○ The schools and teachers, especially Mr Bonallo ○ School trips ○ The graffiti artist we worked with at the skate park ○ Mobile library ○ Good community ○ When not in schools there's lots to do ○ Grassy areas are fun to play on ○ Amazing ○ The education available ○ Community spirit ○ The Mill Centre x 8 ○ Peat Moss x 2 ○ The surrounding area ○ The burn ○ The space ○ The shows at the Gala day ○ Ice cream vans ○ The Mill Café x 2 ○ Cycle path ○ Javid's ○ Boys Brigade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Girls Brigade ○ The Church/Chapel ○ Gino's van x 5 ○ Community Centre x 4 ○ Library x 2 ○ CAB x 5 ○ Lots of kind people ○ Good schools x 2 ○ Good friends ○ Good people ○ Good shops x 6 ○ Good parks x 2 ○ The house layouts ○ Football Club x 3 ○ Youth Club x 7 ○ Flats ○ Safe place to live ○ Good services ○ Good education ○ Good jobs ○ New football park ○ War memorial ○ Good doctors ○ Eco schools ○ It's fun ○ The schools x 2 ○ The Chinese x 4 ○ Dog park to walk dogs ○ Good community ○ Chemist ○ Everything ○ Places to go with friends ○ Friends live here ○ Playing football ○ The people here are nice ○ Blackburn United Football Club x 2 ○ Bowling club ○ My family ○ The houses ○ The parks where I go with my friends ○ Horse riding ○ Church ○ Good food ○ Easy access ○ Good friends live here ○ Play parks are great ○ CAB spirit ○ The fresh air ○ Friendly people

Q2.What would you suggest could be done to help improve Blackburn for you?

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ More colourful buildings x 3 ○ A fast food place ○ Small cinema ○ Entertainment and events ○ Flower gardens ○ Better cycle path ○ Spa better policing to prevent vandalism ○ Sports shops that are cheap ○ Areas for different kinds of sports ○ More summer youth clubs ○ A gym for fitness ○ Outdoor market like in Bathgate ○ Better Community Centre ○ Graffiti art room ○ No graffiti ○ Stop people doing graffiti, not nice ○ Build more stuff for us ○ More colour/paint more buildings ○ Take responsibility for your own litter more ○ Planned graffiti art ○ Fix the houses ○ A flying fox ○ Environmental project ○ Clubs for kids ○ Stop bullying x 2 ○ No fireworks sold anywhere ○ No fireworks at the skate park ○ People should pick up their litter ○ Walk to schools stop driving there ○ No dog poo ○ More dog poo bins x 6 ○ Less unhealthy food places ○ Comic book store ○ Less fighting ○ Less second hand smoke ○ Less drug use by some people in the community ○ Send addicts to rehab to help them and the community ○ Less alcohol use by selling less in shops ○ Less Emo's and Goth's being judged on personality ○ Less beer/alcohol ○ Make it safer for people ○ More recycling ○ More safe road crossings ○ CAB garden ○ More helpers ○ Less broken glass ○ Stop fires at the play parks ○ More nature walks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Art projects community clean ups ○ Less graffiti and vandalism ○ Paint the flats ○ Dentist we can go to here ○ More things for disabled people ○ Security at the skate park ○ Eco centre ○ A training ground to keep fit ○ Swimming pool ○ CCTV cameras ○ Less vandalism ○ More bins ○ Healthier food places ○ Tuck shop in schools ○ Less pubs ○ More clubs ○ More jobs available for teens ○ More cycle paths and walkways ○ More bus stops ○ More doctors ○ Car shop selling BMW, Fords at cheap prices ○ Toy shop ○ A market ○ A bus station ○ Shop selling stuff for skate park parts ○ Restaurants x 2 ○ Clubs for disabled people ○ More trees ○ A gymnastics class/club ○ Tennis club ○ Mountain bike track ○ Rugby team ○ More flowers x 3 ○ Hut at skatey ○ More football clubs ○ Community garden ○ Sports centre x 2 ○ Café ○ Café next to skatey ○ Big sweet shop like 'Candy Land' ○ More take aways ○ Benches around the community ○ More non-smoking areas ○ Charity shop ○ Krispy Kreme ○ Zebra crossings ○ More regular buses ○ Technology store ○ Sensory centre ○ Soft play ○ Trampoline centre ○ Paintball and Lazer quest ○ Scouts club |
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ice cream shop ○ A radio station ○ Less drug use in Blackburn ○ Plants and trees should be planted ○ Pick up litter regularly ○ More stuff at the youth club ○ Alcohol awareness ○ More litter picking ○ Educate people more about dog poo and make them lift it more ○ More sports and cycling events ○ Smoking awareness sessions ○ Less drugs ○ More bins x 3 ○ An art wall ○ Kick pitch ○ Fix the flats ○ Go cart track ○ Tesco extra store ○ Dirt bike track ○ Stop making cigarettes available to buy ○ Another swing park with a maze in it ○ Bigger chemist ○ Tennis pitches ○ Litter picks ○ More books in the library ○ More buses to different places ○ More colour x 3 ○ More shops x 3 ○ Greater variety of youth activities ○ Less bullying 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Vegetable patches ○ Flats next to schools made nicer and more colourful ○ Museum ○ Indoor skate park x 2 ○ Duck pond ○ Free entry football pitch ○ Swimming pool or access to the one we have in Blackburn ○ Cheaper shops ○ More parks where we can play ○ More community involvement ○ More policing ○ Another high school ○ Stop drug use ○ A police station ○ Regular community clean ups ○ More fences to stop people getting in where they shouldn't go ○ Area next to BPS getting cleaned up for the school to use as a wildlife garden ○ Clean up the glass ○ A green gym ○ Decorations and flowers at the Centre ○ Clothes shops ○ Games shops ○ Roof on the skate park to improve when it rains ○ Less vandalism to help make Blackburn nicer
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