**Written evidence submitted by Toni Paxford (BYC003)**

**Survey for Young People**

In order to evaluate the true picture with regards to work experience in Rotherham we conducted a survey to find out from young people what their experiences are of work experience. Respondents were a range of ages and from a variety of schools to ensure we got a full picture of the occurences in Rotherham. The following questions were asked:

**Have you had work experience?**

There was an even split of respondents who had work experience and who hadn’t had work experience. Showing the inconsistency in Rotherham with regards to the issue.

**How good was your work experience if you’ve experienced it (5 being the best) and why?**

The 50% who had work experience responded to this question and the responses were varied. 25% said their work experience was rated a 1, 25% said it was 3, and 50% said it was rated as a 4. Again this shows the inconsistency of work experience delivered to young people.

**Does your school offer work experience?**

Again when responding to this question the answers were varied. 25% of young people said their school offered work experience, 38% said their school didn’t, and 38% said they didn’t know if their school did offer it. To me this highlights a couple of issues which need to be addressed.

**What work experience opportunities are available to you and how was your work experience arranged?**

One young person responded “nothing as I am too young”, another said a “teacher helper and through school”, whilst another said that no support was offered through school they “organised (their) own work experience”. The most detailed answer was work experience was available at many different animal related work places and a form was filled in to indicate what sort of work experience you wanted and a work placement officer would pick a place for you to go to”. This compared to the countless N/A replies was very poignant and sets standards for other schools to follow.

**In the ideal situation what would you like your work experience to consist of?**

All the responses to this question was interesting. However, the 5 most realistic suggestions were: (We have combined some similar answers to get a more inclusive response.)

* 40% learning and 60% working
* Have a wider range of sectors involved
* Guidance in the field provided
* Not just jobs like photocopying, printing, and making tea
* Have more support for young people with disabilities

**What job types would you like to see work experience in and how would you like to access work experience?**

The most common 5 which kept occuring in the responses to this question are:

1. Hospital jobs
2. Engineering jobs
3. Economic jobs
4. Environmental jobs
5. Childcare jobs

**What would put you off doing work experience?**

The top 5 most common barriers to work experience for young people are:

1. Transport
2. Lack of friendliness in the workplace
3. Poor management for the work experience
4. When the experience is offered e.g. around exam time etc
5. Lack of education

**Recommendations**

1. Have a system that all young people can have work experience.
2. Have a quality control for work experience offered.
3. Publicise available work experience in schools.
4. All schools to deliver work experience.
5. Wider sector of jobs included in work experience opportunities.
6. Have more support for young people with disabilities.
7. Support for young people doing work experience if needed including expenses if needed.
8. Make work experience count- not just photocopying etc.
9. Carry out regular research to ensure young people aren’t forgotten about.
10. Find out which schools offer work experience and have a networking event to share positive practises.