

Listening to children and young people

Views and experiences of child poverty



2009-2010
Preventing and tackling child poverty

Why is it important to listen to young people?

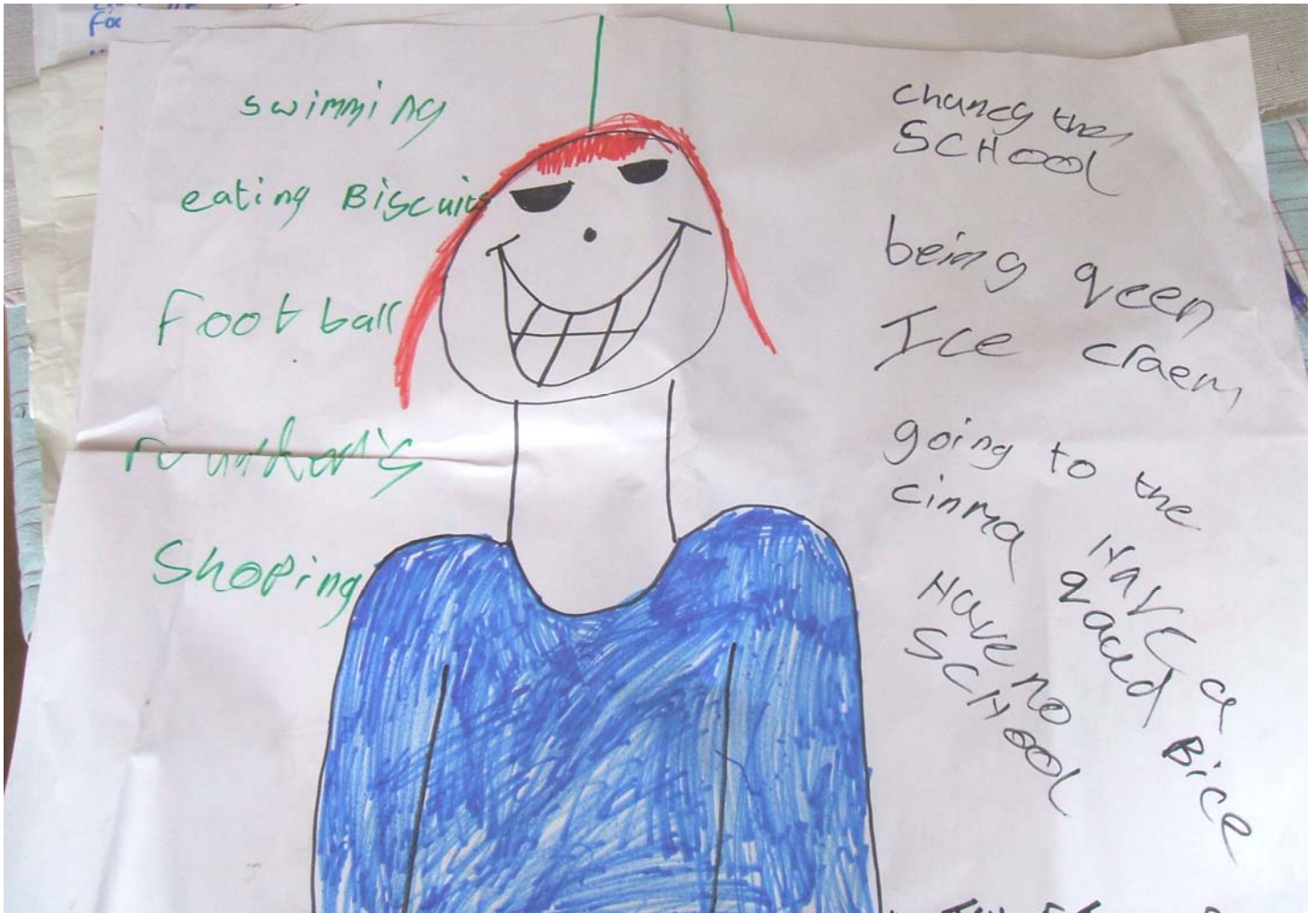
- Understand how poverty affects young people from a young person's perspective
- Being listened to is empowering – if acted on
- Understand barriers
- Use this evidence to plan interventions
- Inform research and policymaking
- Understand what works and what doesn't

Pitching it right

- **Doesn't work to frame it as being about poverty – labelling, stigma, peer issues**
- **Instead ask young people about impact of the credit crunch as way in**

Making it fun – creative methods

- Interviews using flipcameras (age 8-18)
- Storytelling and discussion (age 5-8)
- Drama – for larger groups
- Animation – safe method of enabling young people to explore their views and develop these in a group (over 8)

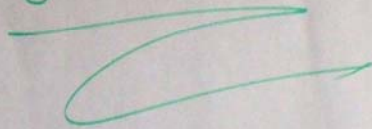


I Do diabetic
i inject my self 5
times a day

play alot of football

Run alot

go to the cowgate
youth club



i want
to DO

eat chocolate again

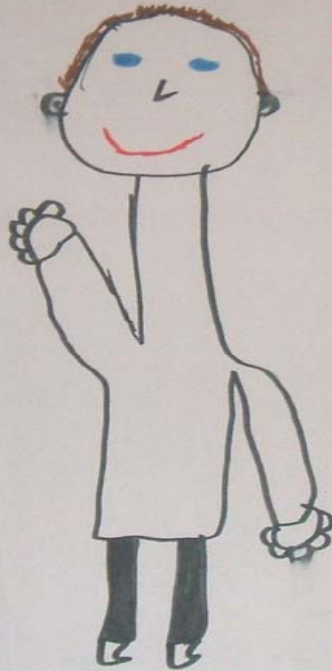
be a footballer

See my uncle
again



Things I Do

- Scouts
- Music
- Bands (3)
- 2 buses to school
- Swimming at Gosforth Pool
- Ride my bike
- Tennis
- Brunton Park, all Saints, Garden village



Things I Want to do

- Rowing
- Try or buy every musical instrument in a music shop
- Activity holidays

Dominic Smith

11

Not having enough money

- Its hard to have money for dinner and the bus (Boy, 11 Cowgate)
- Its harder to make friends (Boy, 9, Walker)
- They might feel left out and think everyone is against them (Boy, 12 Cowgate)
- The money in the shops needs to get lower because people don't have enough money to pay their bills (Boy, 10, Walker)

Not having enough money

- **Young people are sad because people are losing their jobs (Girl, 10, Fenham)**
- **Its expensive to go to the cinema, it should be £2, a reasonable price, most families cant afford it (Boy, 12, Cowgate)**
- **My brother ran away three times (Boy, 11, Fenham)**
- **Me stepdad has been on the dole for over a year and theres still no jobs. It makes things hard cos they got no money (Boy, 10, Walker)**

Main issues

Getting picked on or labelled

- **Poor families get picked on cos they cant go on trips. Like a girl in my class, she is dead poor and a dickie nut (has nits). (Boy, 9, Cowgate)**
- **Its not your fault if you havent got the right clothes, its your parents. Its harder to make friends if you smell and people don't want to go with them. (Boy, 12, Cowgate)**

How to tackle bullying

- **At school, instead of being bullied, you could talk to someone. But not at lunch, you'd know them were there and they'd get bullied more. (Boy, 10, Cowgate)**
- **They don't find out if the bully has a reason. They should ask them what their home life is like they might not be happy. (Boy, 12, Cowgate)**

Main issues

Missing out – school trips

- **At my school we are going on a trip that costs £210, some people cant go on trips cos its too expensive. Its unfair. (Boy, 10, Walker)**
- **Only the really rich families in our school can go on trips abroad, they cost £400 to £600. (Girl, 12, Gosforth)**
- **If they cant pay they cant go on the longer trips, its shan, you need to sort it out like. (Girl, 8, Fenham)**
- **The last trip was £10.50, but trips should be cheaper, like £1 to go somewhere for an hour (Boy, 8, Cowgate)**

- **You do have to pay for trips but its not a lot really. I went to the Lake District and stayed for three nights. We had hikes, got taken away from the youth hostel and had to find our way back. (Boy, 11, Brunton Park)**

Trips that widen horizons

- **We went to Cragside and built dens, roasted marshmallows and put them on a stick (Boy, 12, Cowgate)**
- **We went to fix some cars in a mechanics place (Boy, 12, Cowgate)**

Main issues

Problems buying what you need for school

- Its hard to pay for uniforms when you have bills, its £90 for the bills. It really is. (Boy, 12, Cowgate)
- Its hard to buy stationary, to do your homework, and all the paper and pens (Girl, 11, Fenham)
- They get picked on because they've got ripped trainers (Boy, 11, Cowgate)

What happens to families who are poor?

- They give up (Girl, 11, Fenham)
- Some children might want to do something really bad but they might think I just cant do it so they just forget it (Girl, 14, Scotswood)
- If you have a good life you go up the ladder and if you have a bad life you go down it (Boy, 12, Scotswood)
- Some people don't understand that that's just how life is (Boy, 10, Walker)

Main issues

Barriers

- **If you got no money you cannot get to work... if your job was in the metrocentre you'd have to get up really early to walk to Gateshead (Boy, 12, Cowgate)**
- **Its hard for young people to find a job, sometimes you have to find a job that pays less and that's hard (Boy, 10, Walker)**
- **My mam has two cleaning jobs. She didn't like her last job because she was at work at 7 oclock and I didn't see her (Boy, 8, Walker)**

Main issues

Where you live - good

- Its nice, at weekends I'll have a walk around, play on the fields, its fun (Boy, 11, Brunton Park)
- Its just a good community, because everyone works together, weve got some nice neighbours and it's a nice place (Boy, 12, Gosforth)
- Its quite good, we've got the necessary shops, its big, theres not nasty people here, ones that would vandalise (Boy, 11, Brunton Park)
- Its just where I live. I'd rather live here than some big flash estate where everyone has the most expensive stuff. (Boy, 12, Cowgate)

Main issues

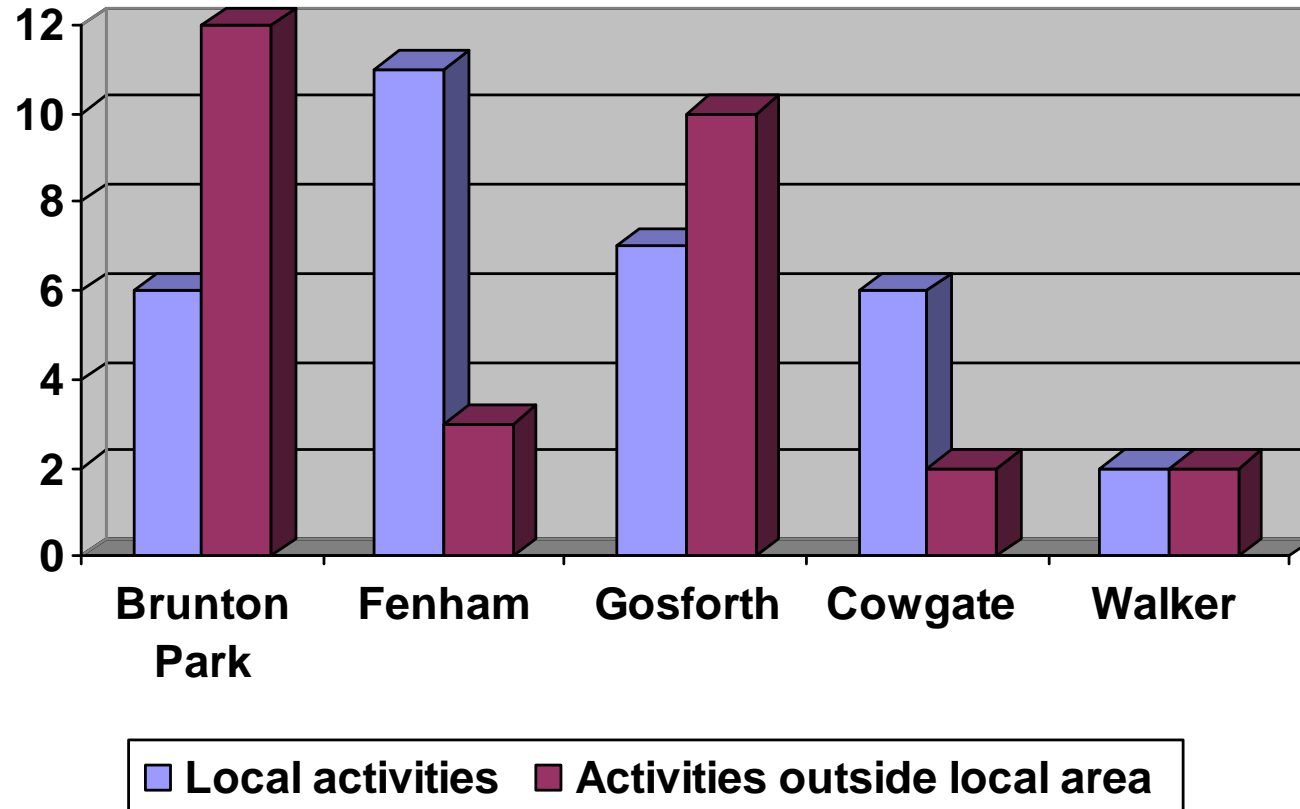
Where you live - bad

- Its stupid, because there's loads of rajis on the street. Its £197 for a house over the road. (Girl, 10, Cowgate)
- If someone follows you, you leg it (Girl, 11 Fenham)
- Some people get picked on by people who live round the corner and they don't have many friends and some people be nasty...cos they look trampy and they beat them up. Some things happen round here. Girl, 9, Walker)
- Its boring, theres nowt to do. I like it here (Cowgate YIP) (Girl, 7, Cowgate)

Views of other areas

- **On the way to school, up the West Road, its very tatty and there arent the friendliest of people....lets hope they don't get on the bus. (Boy, 11, Brunton Park)**
- **Other areas are better, they got more stuff like parks (Girl, 7, Cowgate)**
- **Some places arent as safe, just outside of the city, I wouldn't like to name. They have violent people getting drunk and going to the pub, just messing about and being freaky. (Boy, 12, Brunton Park)**

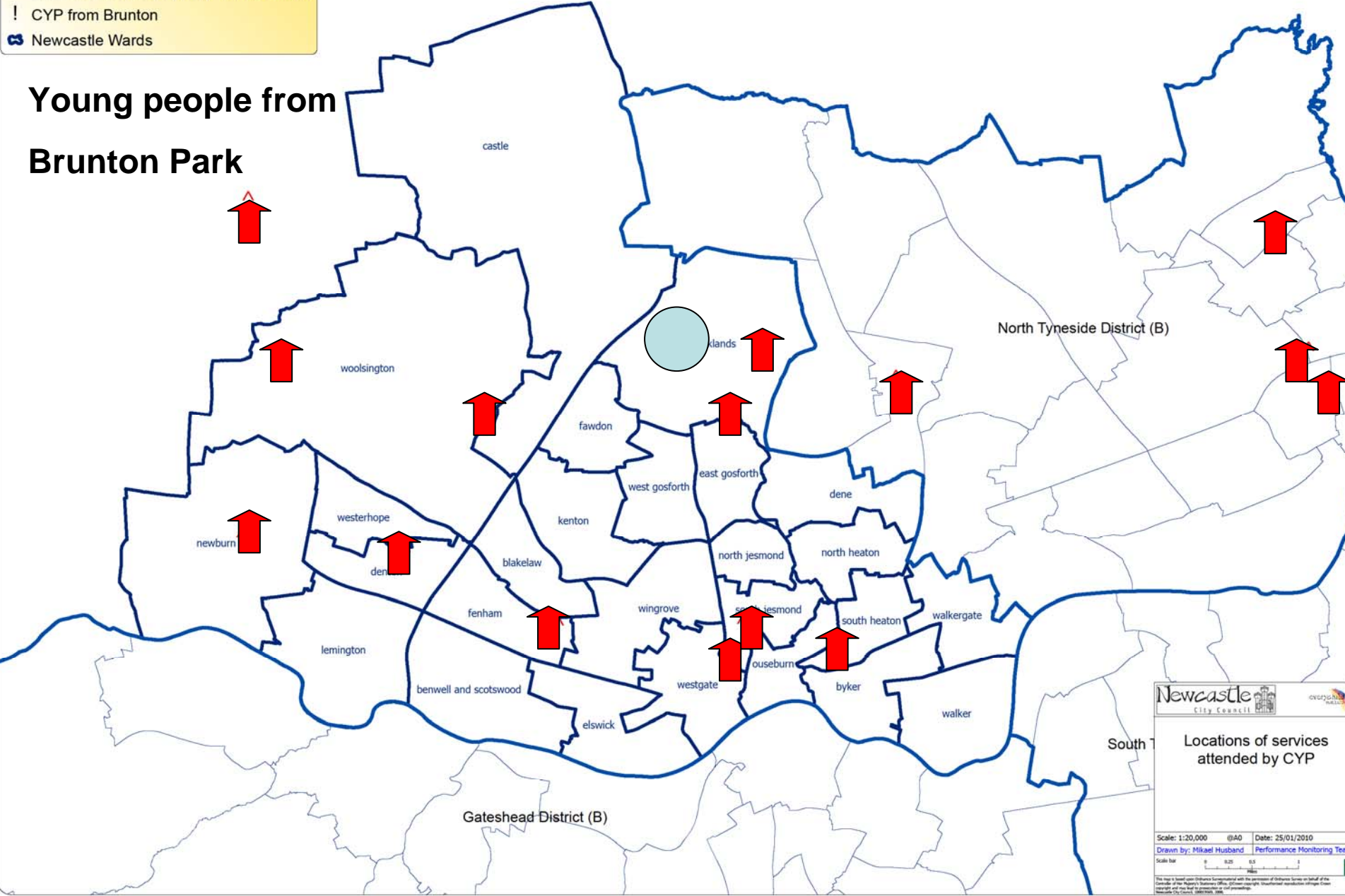
Local and non local activities



Key to Map:

- ^ Activities attended by CYP from Brunton
- ! CYP from Brunton
- 🗺 Newcastle Wards

Young people from Brunton Park



Newcastle City Council

Locations of services attended by CYP

Scale: 1:20,000 @IAO Date: 25/01/2010

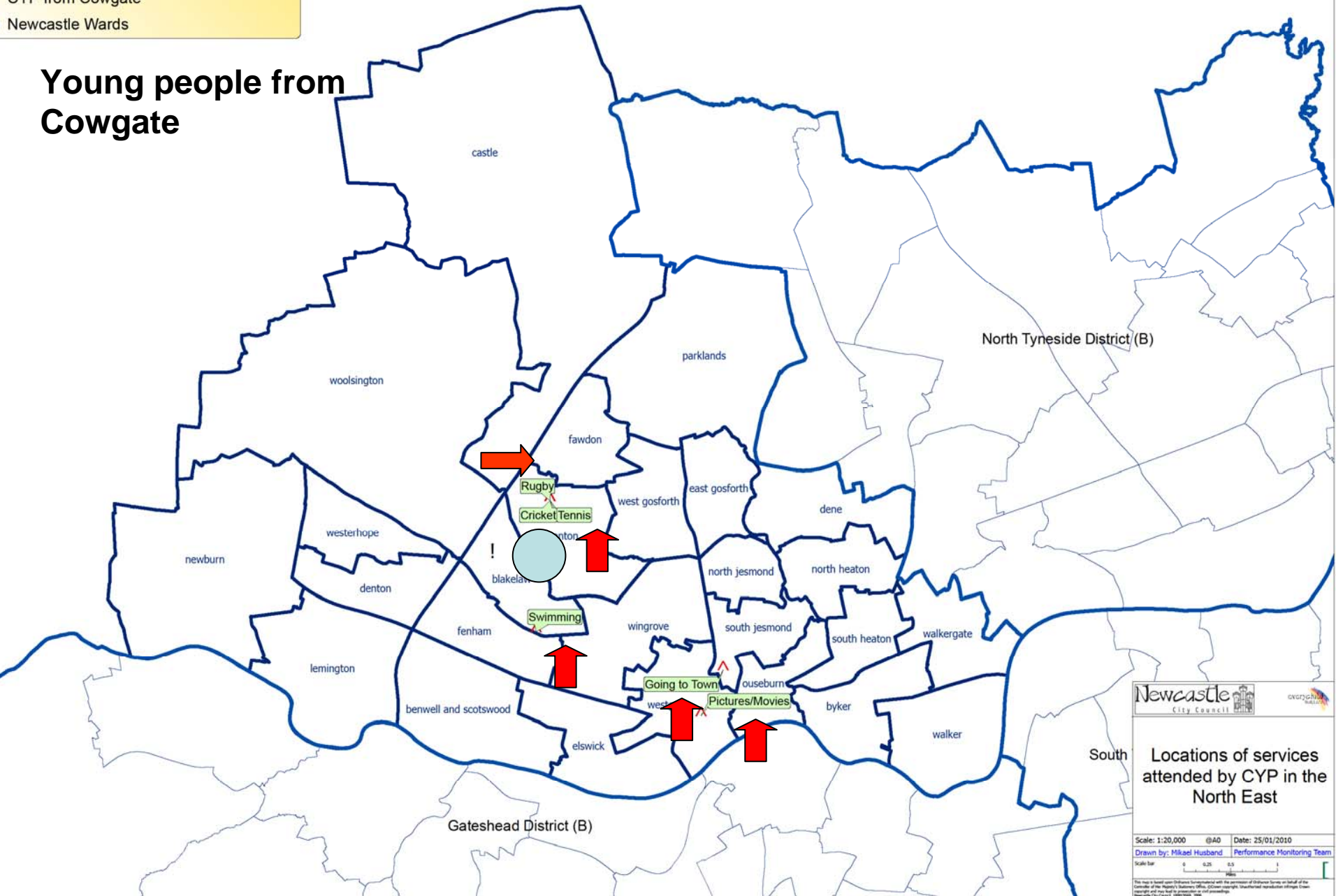
Drawn by: Mikael Husband Performance Monitoring Team

Scale bar: 0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

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Key to Map:
 Activities attended by CYP from Cowgate
 CYP from Cowgate
 Newcastle Wards

Young people from Cowgate



Newcastle
 City Council

Locations of services attended by CYP in the North East

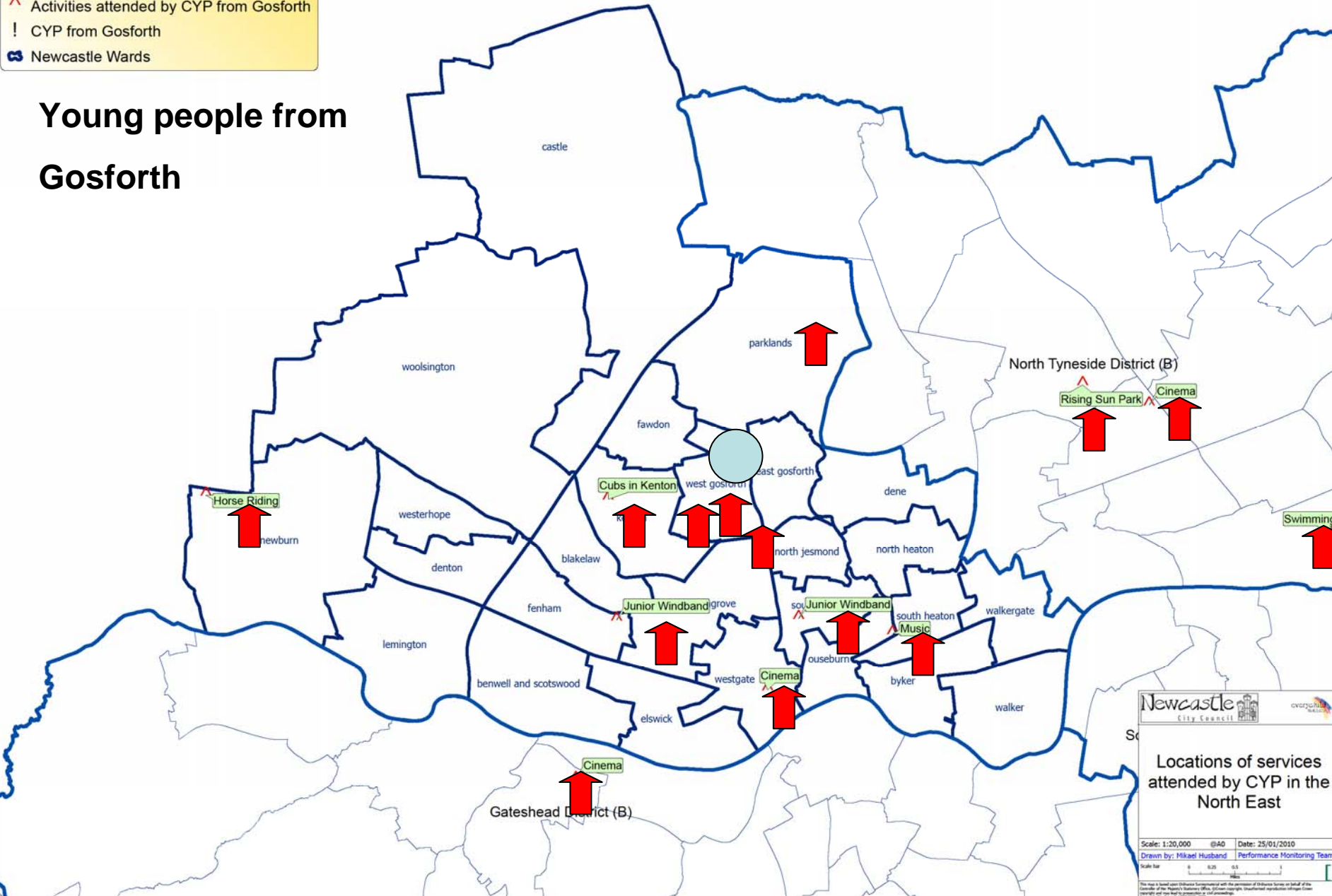
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 Newcastle City Council, October 2008.

Key to Map:

- ^ Activities attended by CYP from Gosforth
- ! CYP from Gosforth
- Ⓞ Newcastle Wards

Young people from Gosforth



Newcastle City Council  

Locations of services attended by CYP in the North East

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How to change things

- **The council could do more free things like horseriding, ice-skating... so you can have a go (Girl, 12, Gosforth)**
- **I don't play out, I'd like to have a leisure centre. There's nothing to do for kids (Girl, 12, Cowgate)**
- **Some people have too many hours (their job)...why cant they take some hours off that person and give to another one (Boy, 12, Cowgate)**
- **Speak to the government and tell them too many people are unhappy because they cant buy presents for their children (Boy, 10, Walker)**
- **More trips we can afford (Boy, 10, Fenham)**

Early Findings

- **Young people in more affluent areas – more activities beyond their local area**
- **More life experiences better equipped – confidence and self esteem**
- **Labelling has a big impact**
- **Young people open up on a one to one basis – mentoring**

Children's Plan – mirrors key issues

- Young people want access to opportunities
- To have someone there for them
- To feel safe
- To live in a community where people respect each other
- Where young people are valued as experts in their own lives



Opportunities for change

- **Integrated Youth Service – one offer for young people**
- **Disadvantaged subsidy in schools**
- **Targetted support**
- **Common Assessment Framework**
- **Childrens Plan**



And Finally

Where does money come from?

Trees

Scratchcards

Gold

Selling things

Lucky dip

Gold.com

banks

Lottery

Working

Euromillion

Work in your own shop

Who wants to be a millionaire

What have YOU learned from young people?

- **Other examples of involving and listening to young people**
- **How has it informed projects and policies?**
- **What changes are being/can be made as a result?**