

# PETITION

***Don't Punish Us - the Young People –  
Respect us!***

**16,845 longhand signatures**

**Over 4,000 on-line supporters**

**(As of 21/02/2011, figures rising daily)**

As young residents - and soon to be voters- of the Borough of Sefton we deplore Sefton Council's decisions to:

- Close the 7 Local Authority owned youth centres.
- Cease the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme (DofE).
- Cut more funding from Tier 2 youth service funding.

The young people of Sefton hope that a mutually agreeable outcome can be reached.

We, the young people of Sefton, believe the decisions made on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2011 were done so without Councillors' being in possession of the full facts regarding the benefits of these resources within the borough. We believe that Councillors were misinformed about the effectiveness of these resources. We

believe the decisions were made without Councillors' having fully considered the equality and social impact of withdrawing these resources.

Having been involved in Democracy workshops and the local United Kingdom Youth Parliament elections - supported by youth workers and held within the youth centres – we believe that the voice and opinions of young people on these matters should be heard.

We the young people of the Sefton community are active and valued citizens and have a right to be included in decision-making processes that affect us.

The signatures collected within this petition highlight the civic action approach by us the young people of the Sefton community to expressing our displeasure at the decisions made on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2011 to withdraw future funding of the 7 Local Authority owned Youth Centres and Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme (DofE). The signatures collected within this petition should earn us the young people of the Sefton community the right to voice concerns and address all Elected and Council Members. The signatures collected within this petition draws attention to the high level of community support us the young people of this community have received to try to safeguard our right to centre based youth work including the facilitation of DofE (in line with Statutory Guidance on Section 507B Education Act 1996). We, the young people of Sefton also request that there are no further cuts to tier 2 funding of youth services.

I Jacob Kristopher Wilson request that I be allowed to speak at the Council Meeting dated 03 March 2011 as a representative of the young people of Sefton. On behalf of the young people of Sefton, I would like to request that the Cabinet: -

- Reverse the decision made at the council meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2011 to stop future funding of the 7 Local Authority Youth Centres for both Universal and Targeted work.
- Reconsider the cessation of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.
- That a twelve month strategic review take place to explore funding streams for the continuation of the centres and that no centre be closed until the completion of such.
- That there are no further cuts to tier 2 funding of youth services.

Can I also request 4 tickets for people to support me at the Council meeting.

Regards

Jacob Kristopher Wilson