

**Time frame**

Since 2010

Stakeholders

Political executive
 Extra-curricular education
 Child protection
 Prevention and health promotion
 Civil society

**Institutional framework****Structure-related quality criteria**

Strategic orientation
 Designing the provisions/
 living spaces
 Collaboration
 Coordination
 Participation and identification

The starting point

The Sensor working group was launched in 2010 by the local council (executive) and initially dealt with youth protection. The working group's remit continually developed, however, and it took on further issues such as littering, children and young people's participation in the creation of public buildings and developing the principles for receiving the UNICEF "Child-friendly city" label. It is well networked and comprises representatives from the local council, church council, school administration, associations and industry plus school heads and youth workers.

Aims

The top priority was initially youth protection. The aim here was to primarily gather young people from the upper school and upwards, and educate them about the issues of alcohol and drugs. Parents and associations were then also included and the "Luegsch!" [Look!] project introduced. The associations valued the communication and approached the Sensor working group with other problems, which the group accepted.

It is important to the working group to develop these issues from the ground up and to create good preconditions and good social space for young people, so that they feel at home in the community.

Target group

- Children from school age upwards
- Young people from the upper school upwards

Costs

The costs for the individual projects are budgeted and calculated with the respective department. The Sensor working group has 2,000 Swiss francs available per annum for ongoing activities.

Project progression

Other issues of interest to young people were taken up, such as children and young people-friendly public spaces and paths or leisure provisions for children and young people. The group works within the fields of prevention and awareness raising, and coordinates single-issue activities carried out by associations, industry, schools, youth work and the community, such as the issue of littering.

The Sensor group's work led to the introduction of a movement passport, a somewhat different "tournament" linked to the issue of littering and information events. A list of leisure activities for children and young people was also created.

Depending on the area, the contact person is either the school head, the youth work officer or the association representative. They bring the issues to the meetings, which are then scheduled, addressed and prioritised in the meetings. Some issues are also sometimes clarified with specialist agencies. The Sensor working group meets around five times a year.

Success factors

- The Sensor working group is a point of contact. The children and young people, associations, groups can bring their concerns here.
- The working group has a listening ear.
- The working group addresses issues.
- The working group has a wide network.

Challenges

- Funding.
- Wide-reaching support required.
- Lots of effort and will required.
- Young people, associations and groups must be approached and events organised that are of interest.
- Getting it right.

Conclusion

The process Menznau went through as part of the UNICEF Child-friendly City label meant that various provisions were networked and improved. The community's understanding of the needs of children and young people was strengthened. After receiving the label, the various measures were handed over to the respective person responsible within the municipality. The Sensor working group acted as a hub for this. The following measures have already been implemented: revising and implementing the pupil participation concept, promoting coordination between the associations, motivating children and young people for association life. The development and establishment of participation guidelines is also in the planning, as is clarifying the needs of children and young people.

Contact details

Helen Schurtenberger, Sozialvorsteherin
Gemeinde Menznau
helen.schurtenberger@menznau.lu.ch
+ 41 (0)41 494 93 18