



Bulwell Community Toy Library responds to shocking national report that says 'nearly half the UK population agree that children are beginning to behave like animals'.

A children's charity that's been at the heart of community life in Nottingham for over 30 years has expressed its sadness at a report published by Barnardo's yesterday, which revealed that a large section of the UK public hold a negative view of children.

The Bulwell Community Toy Library has been working with children and families in the area for more than three decades, providing toys, play sessions for children and young people and one-to-one support for families.

Steve Parkinson, Project Manager at the toy library, is shocked by the report's findings.

The research, commissioned by national children's charity Barnardo's, showed that:

'Nearly half the UK population (49%) agree that children today are beginning to behave like animals.'

The report also showed that:

- 44% agree that children in this country are becoming feral
- 47% agree that the trouble with young people is that they're angry, violent and abusive
- 1 in 4 people think that children who behave badly or anti-socially are beyond help by the age of 10
- 38% of people disagreed with the statement that children who get into trouble are in need of help.

Steve says:

"We work with children from 0 to 13 years, who are often struggling to make sense of the world they are growing up in, as all children do.

Children and young people are trying their best to find a place for themselves in the world and an identity, but it's not easy and they need all the help adults can give them. In many cases, the world isn't an easy place for adults at the moment, with families struggling financially or coping with redundancy for example. So it's no wonder that children are affected by these things and struggle too.

Plus of course, not all adults are great role models themselves and some children often see adults behaving badly."



Steve agrees with Barnardo's that it's unfair that the public holds a negative view of all children;

'despite the majority being well behaved, attending school, taking part in activities and a significant number contributing to their communities and volunteering.'

Barnardo's chief executive Anne Marie Carrie said:

"It is depressing that so many people are ready to give up on children, writing them off as 'animals' and 'feral'. What hope is there for childhood in the UK today if this is how adults think?"

We seem to have forgotten the fact that most children are well behaved and instead we are unquestioningly accepting a stereotype of young people as criminal and revolting.

We aren't asking people to put up with yobbish behaviour, but we do need to change our attitude towards troubled children."

To read the Barnardo's report in full please visit:

http://www.barnardos.org.uk/news_and_events/media_centre/press_releases.htm?ref=74051

To find out more about the toy library please call Steve Parkinson on 0790 568 9438 or email steve@toy-library.co.uk