Brief from Lemos&Crane

Supposing that sex education for children in the UK was a success and addressed the importance of loving and lasting relationships:

How would the education be experienced?

How would it look and feel?

What would be its defining characteristics?

Responses from Carol Lee

Results which might be expected:

- Increased confidence and comfort with sexual and emotional language
- Increased feeling of safety and security
- (In schools and youth centres) A group experience of shared ideas, feelings and information
- Satisfaction from being in the company of some new words and not being mocked or made to feel small
- Increased ability to understand and express oneself
- Increased ability, therefore, to be tolerant of others
- Being more mature and able to make good decisions
- Calmness
- Feeling more joined-up
- Knowledge gained – in general
- Precise knowledge gained in areas like contraception, anatomy, childbirth, STDs

Some defining characteristics:

- Wide-ranging in its approach
- Non-prescriptive
- Authoritative – i.e. precise as well as wide-ranging
- Respectful
- Investigative
- Not mechanical in its approach

It might include:

- Working in groups
- A discussion of language
- Young people being able to ask anonymous questions
- Role-play
- A look at poetry, general release films, literature
- A review of prevalent attitudes towards sex and sexuality
- An historical look at sexual habits and roles

Who would deliver it?

- People specially trained in the subject area, which is what the Government intends to be statutory by autumn of this year.
- Ideally tandem-teaching: (Important for schools and youth centres) male and female, and across an age-range; e.g. a woman of say, 55, working with a man of 30.
- People who are not conscripts – who have had the work forced on them and do not feel comfortable with it.

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