The purpose of this symposium is to begin formulating a Youth Master Plan that will not only benefit our youth, but our entire community.

What is a Youth Master Plan?
A Youth Master Plan is a comprehensive and functional document that answers the question: “What do we want for the young people of our community?”

What is Youth Master Planning?
Youth Master Planning is an organized, inclusive process in which young people, parents, school and town leaders, and community members identify the supports, opportunities, places/spaces, and services that will help ALL young people develop and thrive.

As a valued member of the Acton/Boxborough Community, we would be delighted to have you join us to share your thoughts, experiences, and ideas for the future.

Symposium Overview
8:15 – 8:45 AM
Sign-in and Welcome
A light breakfast will be served
(Please be aware that outside food may not be brought into the Temple)

8:45 – 9:00 AM
Introduction
Jan Stewart
ABCHY
Youth Master Plan

9:00 – 9:30 AM
Keynote Address
Ron Bell
Director of Community Affairs for the Governor Deval Patrick administration

9:30 – 10:00 AM
ABRSD Panel Presentations
Dr. Stephen Mills, Superintendent
Liza Huber, Director of Pupil Services
Bruce Oetinger, History Teacher
ABRHS Student Council

10:00 – 11:00 AM
Guided Round Table Discussions
Information Sharing

Who is involved in Youth Master Planning?
An inclusive planning process involves the various groups and individuals who will be impacted by the Youth Master Plan. Town or county government is the lead organization; that way the Youth Master Plan can be officially linked to other important community planning documents. Young people and their families are essential participants, as are elders and neighbors. Other important groups to be represented are youth serving organizations and non-profits, education, business and industry, social and civic organizations, workforce training, juvenile justice, funders, media, elected officials, and the faith community.

What do they do?
Participants collect data and survey their peers to uncover community priorities for the well-being of young people. Then they set goals, and determine the strategies and activities that will help meet those goals. They use creative problem-solving to discover solutions for the barriers that keep young people from succeeding. Most importantly they find out what is already helping to make a community a great place for young people, and they determine how to strengthen those efforts.

Youth Master Planning is an opportunity to establish and confirm a public commitment to young people. Youth Master Planning intentionally and creatively addresses the issues impacting our community’s children, youth, and families.
Young people have an essential role in Youth Planning. Because they have a unique insight into their world, they MUST be partnered in creating, strengthening, and implementing the plan if it is to be successful.

Youth Master Planning isn’t about just creating more new youth programs. It involves finding formal and informal ways to build strong and healthy families, neighborhoods, schools and communities.

The Acton-Boxborough Coalition for Healthy Youth (ABCHY) strives to unite, empower and mobilize the community to promote positive youth development and prevent risky behaviors in adolescents. ABCHY’s primary goal is to ensure that our youth are valued and respected and that they receive the help and support they need.

ABCHY is funded by a generous grant from the Acton-Boxborough United Way.

Acton/Boxborough Youth Advocacy Community Symposium
“Advocating for Our Youth by Strengthening the Connection Between Our Schools and Our Community”

October 7, 2009
8:15 – 11:00AM

Congregation Beth Elohim
133 Prospect Street, Acton, MA

co-hosted by

Pupil Services
Acton, Acton/Boxborough Regional School District

Acton-Boxborough Coalition For Healthy Youth