

Our Voice & Corporate Parenting Panel Pizza Party Tuesday 17 January 2017

MINUTES

Context

At the 'Our Voice' Festive meal on Tuesday 20 December 2016 young people were split into small groups and asked to identify areas for improvements for 2017. Each group identified areas and put forward the one area they felt was the most important. The three groups identified the following three areas:

- 1) **Health Assessments** – ensuring child focused assessments and health information and support
- 2) **Social Workers** – improving relationships between children and young people and social workers
- 3) **Dreams and aspirations** – providing more opportunities for young people to explore a variety of future career options or dream jobs.

All young people present at the festive meal (20 young people attended) voted on which issue they would like Our Voice and CPP to concentrate on. The following two areas were chosen:

1) Health Assessments

- We know that they are very important!
- Everything should be done to ensure that they are child friendly
- More health information should be available
- Explore health assessments for care leavers especially those staying put
- Ensuring that young people understand 'consent'

2) Social workers

- More opportunities to see and have our views heard by our social workers
- More opportunities to see social workers outside the home
- Easier ways to get in contact with social workers between visits
- The need to see my social worker regardless of the stability of my placement

Pizza Party Discussion

During the pizza party Our Voice and CPP members discussed the two areas in more detail. The discussion incorporated the following three questions:

- What is the issue?
- How can the issue be resolved?
- Who should be involved in the resolution?

1) Health Assessments

All agreed that health assessments are important and like the LAC nurses. Nearly all were seen in the foster placement. Discussed other places assessments could take place including school and Dr's surgery.

More information for CIC about health services available to them

More information about the actual health assessment and what it is for

Should be able to keep records of assessments and personal health information

Sexual health – how can this be talked about and at what point?

Access to mental health services and more information about mental health issues faced by CIC

First aid training for CIC

LAC nurses should be involved, brook, compass and the hospital

Referring to other services – i.e. dentist and opticians

Supporting young people reaching care leaving age to access health services independently

2) Social Workers

Would like to see their own social workers more

Would like more stability within the social work team – young people spoke about changes in social workers and the number of social workers they had

Like seeing IROs before reviews to talk to them face to face

Would like to be more involved in social worker training especially around engaging with young people

Would like to meet with Sharon Godfrey (Social Work Team Manager) more

Make our own decisions more and inform us of what is going on

Would like to do more activities with their social worker as these support relationship development, especially if they have changed social worker. This could be as simple as a cup of coffee or a bowling trip.

If a social worker does change, they would like them to be prepared and know more about their circumstances.

Opportunities to see their social workers independently of their foster carers

Our Voice are in the process of deciding some future steps as a result of these discussions.