

AGENDA ITEM 3



The Blueprint Forum

Progress Report: October to December 2014

VOICES FROM CARE

39 The Parade, Cardiff, CF5 3AD
Authored by: Christopher Dunn

A summary of activities from Voices From Care's Corporate Parenting Project with RCT Local Authority.

The Blueprint Forum

Progress Report: October to December 2014

Participation Group Details

Number of Meetings:	3 & 5 Corporate Parenting preparation sessions.
Number of Young People worked with;	11
Average group attendance;	5
Age range:	15-22
Foster Care:	0
Residential Care:	5
After Care:	6
New Members to the group:	2
Group Drop off *	4 – never came to the group
Members Linking in with VFC National Projects	6

*No involvement with project in 6 months

Key Achievements

- The creation of a corporate parenting video, highlighting the group's views on who corporate parents are, attribute of a good corporate parent and actions of a corporate parents.
- Several group members attended the corporate parenting panel. The video was presented and they took part in a Q & A session with the panel.

Summary of sessions

October

The meeting was attended by the Head of Children's Services and the Chair of the Corporate Parenting panel in RCT. The session gave the several of RCT's Corporate Parenting Board the chance to hear directly from the group on their experiences of care in RCT, both the positive and the negative. The young people also discuss the blueprint forums work over the last few years, in addition to how we can all work together in the future.

Several group members attended the corporate parenting panel. The video was presented and they took part in a Q & A session with the panel.

November

The workshop for this meeting was delivered by VFC's Social work placement student who asked the young people about their positives experiences of Social Work, the negative experiences of social work and what advice they would give to a new social worker.

December

December's meeting was the young people's Christmas celebration. A real positive outcome from this was group displaying proactive team spirit during ice skating by encouraging and aiding the less confident members to become involved.

RCT based agencies liaised with

Voices From Care have been in contact with Interlink arranged for them to present at two different meeting, to talk about volunteering opportunity's with in RCT.

Two members of the group took part in training, delivered by interlink, to prepare them to be young commissioners of services, an event upcoming in the 2015. This event took place in Swansea and was to provide training to help service provides improve the service they offer and the importance of involving young people in the commissioning process.

VFC's continued contact with Natasha Keogh from R.C.T. aftercare team to encourage young people who showed interest to come to meetings.

We have also been in close contact with a number of residential homes in the R.C.T area to increase the membership base.

One member put into contact with R.C.T Engagement Support Coordinator.

Interaction within Voices From Care

- Members attended Voices From Care's Membership committee, steering group and Board of Trustee
- A representative of the Blueprint forum attended the Young Person Ministerial Expert Group on Advocacy.
- Several members attended research methods training, delivered by Cardiff University.
- Members who have been trained in research method attached CASCADE Voices, a research advisory group.
- Members took part in a consultation on the residential care workers, delivered by the Care Council for Wales.
- Members have been working with the Welsh Senate for Older People and Age Cymru on an intergenerational project.
- 1 Members of the Blueprint forum are currently making use of the free counselling service proved by Voice from Care, with 8 working with our Advice and Support Team.
- As a result of the work with Interlink a number of young people are now involved with the 4C's Children's Commissioning Consortium.
- Several Members of the group presented a section of their corporate parenting charter

during care leavers' week held at Cardiff University.

Plans for Next Quarter

- Developing Blueprint Forum Branding, to increase the group awareness with professionals and young people, in addition to giving the group more of an ownership of the meeting location.
- Volunteer's mentors and young person representatives are ideas that are being explored. The aim is to give the young people who are approaching or have exceeded the age limit the opportunity to assist in the organisation and facilitation of group meeting.
- To begin to develop the Inaugural Blueprint Forum newsletter, developed by the young people for all looked after young people in RCT.