



Children's Participation and Rights Team

# Children in Care Council

## MINUTES

10.30am-12pm Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2010

99 Manor Way, Anlaby

### Present

Nicole  
Kallam  
Roscoe  
Chaenan  
Simon  
Jolene  
Shantelle  
Aaron

### Apologies

Vicky  
Caroline  
Mina  
Cody  
Kelly  
Nikita  
Kai

### 1. Minutes from last meeting

All young people received minutes from the last meeting and were happy with them.

### 2. Jane Stow - New LAC Teams

Jane Stow joined the meeting this morning to discuss the re-alignment of the ERYC childcare/family support teams and in particular to discuss the new LAC teams that are being set up in Beverley and Bridlington.

The teams were due to be in place by April 2010 but this has been put back to May 2010. Jane informed the young people that they hoped these new teams would improve the availability and accessibility of workers for LAC. She hopes the teams will be able to build stronger and closer





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relationships with young people in care, that they will be able to listen to the voices of young people in care and improve their experiences of the care system.

Jane told the young people that there would be a team leader and 5 social workers in each team, 2 of which would be advanced social work practitioners. The team leaders will be Shiela MacMillan and Julie Harwood. Three of the 4 seniors will be Rachel Vickers, Jenny Elliott and Denise Maull, the 4<sup>th</sup> is yet to be named. The other social workers will be named by the end of the week.

Jane apologised to the young people that some of the changes will mean young people having to lose their social worker and get a new one from the LAC teams, however Jane wanted to reassure the young people that this would be done as sensitively as possible and with young people's guidance. If a young person has a social worker who will be joining the LAC teams, they will remain that child's named worker.

Jane asked the young people if they would like to do some training for the teams once they are set up so the workers can learn what it's like to be in care from the perspective of a young person. The young people were very interested in doing this.

### 3. 4-8 year olds

It has been identified that a large number of young people enter the care system between the ages of 4 and 8 years olds. Many of the CiCC said they too came into care at this age. We have been asked whether we can increase the service we offer to these young people to give them more support at such a difficult time in their lives.

We discussed ideas about support groups, art and craft days, consultation events, the CiCC coming along to talk with younger children and lots more. We considered that these young people may be confused and not really understand what is happening to them and being scared at what might happen in the future.

We think it would be possible to collate a list of names of young people every 6 months who have come into the care system or been identified as having a LAC review and that we could invite them to Manor Way to meet some of the younger members of the CiCC, to do arts and crafts but also to give them the opportunity to meet other young people who are in similar situations and also talk to children's rights officers if there are things we can do to help them understand or clarify their situation. We hope that we may be able to do this over the summer holidays.





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All social workers will be contacted prior to invites to check the appropriateness of inviting a young person and to check they are fully aware of their circumstances.

### 4. Newsletter

Copies of our new newsletter were distributed...most young people had already seen them. They really like the letter and think John has done a fab job!

Gemma informed the young people that John would be putting together a newsletter quarterly and if anyone wants to input anything to the next one they should contact John via the website.

### 5. Updates

Gemma updated the CiCC with **news about the team...**

- Jayne has now officially been appointed as manager
- Kerry has returned from maternity leave and will be working Mon-Wed
- We have employed a new member of staff Jodie to cover the extra 18.5 hours of Donna's job
- We have a new student with us from March to August called Emily

Gemma also informed the young people that we have had to postpone the **Recruitment Training** due to take place on 7<sup>th</sup> April due to low numbers of young people. We are hoping to rearrange it for Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June during the half term holidays.

Gemma told the young people that we have had to change the next **Children in Care Council** meeting from Sat 24<sup>th</sup> April to Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April from 5.30pm-7.30pm due to some foster carer training taking place on the Saturday.

Some young people attended the **LAC Consultation Group** with Alison, Pam and John on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March. They discussed altering the format of the meeting. The professionals will now add items to the agenda prior to the meeting and the young people have requested that the meeting is extended by 30minutes because they always run over time. The meetings will now be quarterly from 5-6.30pm. The next meeting is booked for Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2010.





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The **Fostering Focus Group** is up and running, Sian and Hannah from the fostering team attended the last meeting with 5 young people on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2010. They brought along a new game purchased by the team to help children in foster care and birth children understand more about each others situation. The young people enjoyed playing this and thought it was really useful. They also discussed the importance of the fostering social workers role for children in foster care and what responsibilities they think they should have.

The young people have requested that these meeting become quarterly rather than bi-monthly because they feel they are too often at the moment.

Roscoe is still leading the **Fostering Roadshow** events around the county which are going well. He attends with one other young person to do a short presentation and discuss issues with prospective foster carers before them embark on the application process.

Roscoe and Aaron attended a national **CROA Children in Care Council Conference** in Birmingham on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March. It was a long day with a very early start but they both feel it was worth it to discuss other CiCC's with other young people. They brought back lots of ideas but the most positive thing was that they feel our Children in Care Council is way ahead of most other counties in England. They recognised our links with professionals and Corporate Parenting are already established and we are involved in lots of training, development and interviews. Many CiCC's in England are struggling to become established within their councils and this made the young people very proud to be part of ERYC!

### 6. AOB

None.





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## NEXT CHILDREN IN CARE COUNCIL –

5.30-7.30pm

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2010

At Manor way, Anlaby

(invites to follow in a few weeks)

