



Minutes

Wednesday 17th February 2010

Present

Mark
Shane
Kelly
Paul
Julie

Apologies

Emma
Marree

Welcome & Ice Breaker

Roscoe who is the Apprentice and the Focus Group co-ordinator welcomed everyone to the meeting and then we went around the room introducing ourselves and what we do in our spare time.

Roscoe thought it was a good idea to go through some ground rules, the ground rules that the young people came up with included:

- No Swearing.
- Treat each other with respect.
- Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself.
- Don't speak to other people.
- Confidentiality - what is said in the room stays in the room.
- Listen when spoken to.

Everyone was happy with these rules. As not everyone knew each other Roscoe did an Ice Breaker with the group, the Ice Breaker involved getting into pairs and naming three things the pair had in common and three things they don't have in common. This went very well.

Suitable Accommodation - NCAS Questionnaire

Julie Park asked all the group members to complete a questionnaire for the National Care Advisory Service (NCAS) Regarding Accommodation and whether it's suitable. Unfortunately only Mark could complete the questionnaire as he is the only person who has had experience in living independently. As a substitute for that Roscoe asked the group what they think would be suitable accommodation for them, they come up with:

- Safety - got to be a nice area with nice neighbours.
- Gas.
- Electricity.
- Support with budgeting financially.
- Permanent Tenancy.
- Smoke Alarms.
- Home Safety - Locks on doors and windows.
- Supply accommodation for young people near their support networks.

Credit Contracts and Utility Bills Leaflet

All group members were happy with the Credit Contract Leaflet but they wanted to make a few changes to the Utility Bills Leaflet, these were:

- Too much text cut it down.
- Change the font of the text.
- Boxes - the images put in different places.
- Make it colourful.

After they had a look at the leaflets we had a conversation about getting into debt and the group members said some really important things, these include:

- The leaflets will be useful if people listen.
- Young people would read the leaflets if it applies to them.
- If you haven't got any money in your bank account then you are not eligible for a credit contract, for example O2 expect the customer to have 10 pounds in the bank before they can receive a credit contract.
- When applying for a Credit Contract, you need Photo or non photo ID to prove who you are.

Roscoe will have the finished Utility Bills and Credit Contract Leaflets complete for the next meeting in April.

Pledge

Roscoe explained what the pledge was and all the group members seemed to be interested in looking at the finished article. Roscoe to bring copies of the Leaflet to next meeting if been finalised.

Football Tournament 26th March

Roscoe mentioned to the group members that there is a football tournament coming up on the 26th March in Barnsley. I gave them all the opportunity to attend the tournament and they all was interested in attending.

A.O.B.

Some of the young people wanted to see the money allowance they get from the Pathway Team raised by two pounds from forty eight pounds to fifty pounds a week.

The young people thought that having a life story book or having a part in the newsletter, talking about experiences in care after leaving the system would be a good idea; Roscoe thought this was a very good idea and will be looking into it.

The young people would like a Personal Safety, Sexual Health, Alcohol, Drugs and Mental Health leaflets; they think that this will help young people in all of these areas. Kelly volunteered to help in designing some of these leaflets.

As a group we decided that for the next meeting we would have it in the Easter holidays as it gives other young people to come along and get involved, also as it's Easter we all decided that doing an activity would be a good idea to do.

For the next Young Peoples' Focus Group meeting some of the topics we will be talking about will be:

- Pledge
- Update on Leaflets
- Regional Update
- Karina Allen - Sexual Health



