

Youth Work Network – Tuesday 12th March 2019

Attended:

Aimee Gedge	Momentum (Norfolk)
Amanda Sheehy	Horsford Youth Group
Anastasia Twigg	Norwich International Youth Project
Belinda McKinnon	North Creake Youth Club
John Nooney	Norfolk Youth Projects
Katie Downes	Prospects
Michelle Bibby	MAP
Mike Pepperell	Prospects
Roni Dean	On Track
Sam Mason	MTM Youth Services

Apologies:

Ariane Hoppler	Norfolk County Council
Emma Rush	MAP
Gemma Coe	MTM Youth Services
Harry Town	MTM Youth Services
Heidi Garwood	Revolutionary Roots
Julia Fairbrother	Diss Youth Club
Laura Darby	Harbour Centre
Lynn Cook	Norfolk County Council
Paul Webb	MAP
Rebecca Hulme	NHS Great Yarmouth and Waveney
Robin Konieczny	Norfolk County Council
Sally Palmer	MAP
Sarah Coote	Army Welfare Services

Discussion:

- Anastasia welcomed everyone to the meeting. Everyone introduced themselves, and Mike led an icebreaker asking people to share one thing they were looking forward to.
- **Child Criminal Exploitation:**
 - Aimee explained that Momentum have received funding from the Home Office to work with smaller youth organisations to raise awareness of Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) and support them to protect young people at risk of being exploited. As part of this project, she has created a questionnaire asking youth workers about the knowledge and experience of CCE and how confident they would feel reporting a CCE issue. Aimee passed around copies of the draft version of the questionnaire and asked for comments.
 - Michelle mentioned a case she was aware of where a taxi driver had picked up a young person and realised he was being criminally exploited. The taxi driver then called the police who were able to intervene. Michelle suggested it would be a good

idea to raise awareness of CCE / County Lines amongst taxi and bus drivers, similar to how information and training on domestic abuse is given to hairdressers and beauty therapists.

- CCE briefings are being offered through the Norfolk Safeguarding Children Board. These are free two-hour briefings explaining what CCE / County Lines is and what is happening in Norfolk. The sessions are aimed at all frontline workers and managers working with children and young people. Training can be booked through the NSCB website: <https://www.norfolkscb.org/nscb-booking/nscb-booking-training/>

- **National Occupational Standards for Youth Work**

- Anastasia explained that the National Occupational Standards (NOS) for Youth Work are currently being reviewed. She passed around copies of the revised standards and these were discussed at length.
- Most of those present felt that the NOS is too long and could be condensed, especially as a lot of it should be obvious to youth workers. The language also felt very formal, and some people objected to the word 'assist' (in the context of 'assisting' young people) as it didn't feel very empowering. There were also comments about the order of the standards, which are numbered, as some people felt that some of the standards towards the bottom of the list were more important than some of those at the top.
- Aimee promised to feed back the discussion points to UK Youth, who have more influence and will be able to pass on the comments to the committee in charge of revising the NOS.
- There was a shorter discussion about the Ethical Standards which have been in place since 2004. Copies of the Summary of Ethical Standards were passed around. It was generally felt that these were much more useful and relevant to everyday practice than the NOS, and that the language is easier to understand. The group also liked the fact that the Ethical Standards mention professional boundaries, something which was absent from the NOS, and the need to be accountable to young people.
- Information about the NOS review: <https://www.youthlinkscotland.org/news/archive/october-2018/review-of-the-national-occupational-standards-for-youth-work/>
- The Ethical Standards can be found here: <https://nya.org.uk/resource/ethical-conduct-youth-work/>