



Young People's Voice Network meeting

Date: 01 September 2016 1pm – 3pm

Venue: Imperial House, Bury.

Present:

Anne Marie Jones, Oldham

Clare Wade, Lancashire

Emma Riley, Lancashire

Issy Wood, Bury STARS

John Thomson, Bury STARS

John Hunt, Halton Speak Out

Thomas Norris, Halton Speak Out

Yvonne Smallman, Halton Speak Out

Jason Pilkington, Halton Speak Out

Notes from the meeting

Today's agenda: Things we need to think about:

- What should the Steering Group do?
- How many members should here be?
- Who would like to do what (roles)?
- Representation on Steering Group for the NW SEND regional network
- What are our priorities?
- How many times should we meet?
- What dates and times and where should we meet?
- How could we tell every young person what we do?

Andrew Robinson, POINT, gave a welcome to the group and invited the young people present to explain the nature of their roles, work and structure. The inputs were as follows:

- Halton have a Bright Sparks consultation project which involves asking young people in special schools their views e.g. on the Policy. They have a Quality Kitemark for disability friendly establishments which is awarded after a 'Secret Shop' including wheelchair access, lift (working), toilets (clean) etc. They have a 'Safe in Town' card which means that young people can be assured that shops displaying the logo will ensure they are safe should they feel vulnerable.

- Bury have a formal structure. Issy is the Chair. They engage in consultation work, social activities and have a weekly youth group.
- Lancashire – POWAR have a structured rank system with a Captain, Vice-Captain, media team, inspection team, Head Speaker, Deputy Speaker.
- Oldham – Mahdlo youth centre is for 8 – 21 year olds (25 for disabled) and runs trips and holiday clubs. Annamarie is a young leader and Hate Crime ambassador for Oldham which involves campaigning.

Decisions taken:

- Two co-chairs (if possible) to lead future meetings. Meetings will be chaired by the host area, with opportunities to move around the region.
- Meetings will be held regularly (quarterly as a minimum)
- Working title of the group – Young People’s SEND Partnership NW – to be known as: AWESOME to indicate the values and way of working:

Aspirational

Working together

Engagement

SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities)

Opportunities

Meaningful

Equality

- A logo to be created based on the NW SEND Regional Network logo with the addition of **AWESOME**.
- Two reps from each local authority area to be invited to attend future meetings
- Priorities identified:
 - Lancashire – Education: Structure and funding of post-16 provision, EHC plans.
 - Bury – Transition: young people to adults and funding/structures + employment opportunities
 - Halton – Short breaks

The group took a vote and the first priority identified for action was ***Building community participation*** i.e. working together.

- Each meeting to have a particular focus
- Issy to present ‘Top Tips for engaging children and young people’ at the Association of Directors of Children’s Services (Health and SEND) sub group meeting on 13.10.16 (11.15am) and to stay on for the North West SEND Regional Network Steering Group. (12 – 1.30) at Buille Hill Park, Buille Hill, Salford M6 8GL. A. Robinson and J. Thomson to support.
- Clare volunteered to support child protection and safeguarding if required.

Next Steps

- AWESOME will meet again on Saturday 29th October 2016 from 11am – 1pm. This will be a working lunch with Lancashire to host and Emma to Chair.
- Theme of the next meeting will be Community Participation and attendees will be advised of any pre-meeting preparation in advance.
- Logo versions to be agreed at the next meeting.