

Multi Agency Looked After Partnership Agenda Day

June 2005

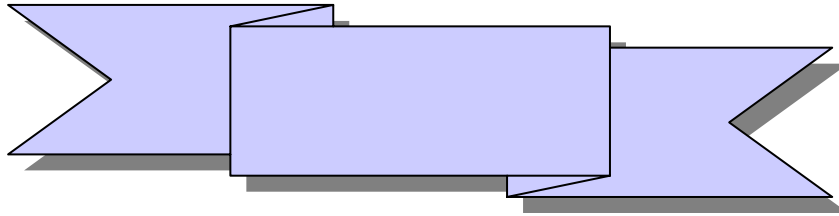
The agenda day took place on the 1st June 2005, it started at 11.00am and finished at 1.30pm, the agenda days purpose was to get looked after young peoples views heard in relation to M.A.L.A.P which is also connected to the five outcomes from every child matters. The day was also a chance for the Independent Reviewing Officers to hear the young people's views on looked after reviews and what an Independent Reviewing Officer's Job Description is and how much power they have.

The young people were paid a fee of £15 for attending the agenda day. In the agenda day I gave the introduction to the young people what the agenda day was, we started a bit later than planned due to arrivals, however, that did not affect the young people working.

We had 3 workshops all 30 minute intervals followed by lunch and payment at the end. We started with our usual 'blank sheet agenda', Good Points, Bad Points and Changes they would like to see. Then in the second workshop 3 of the Independent Reviewing officers informed the young people of their roles and the young people had a chance to ask the Independent Reviewing Officers any questions. The last workshop was the normalising debate, and we wanted the young people to think of them having a normal life as possible without all of these processes of just sleeping out for instance or going shopping and the debate goes on.

The last part of the agenda day was feedback and asking if the young people would like to get involved in some work regarding M.A.L.A.P and Investing In Children and of course paying the young people.

Thank you to everyone who attended the agenda day.



MALAP

**Agenda Day
June 1st
11am-1.30pm**

**Doing Agenda day: Steven, Stephen, Donna, Claire,
Tabatha and Brian with the help of Dave.**

11.00am : Introduction

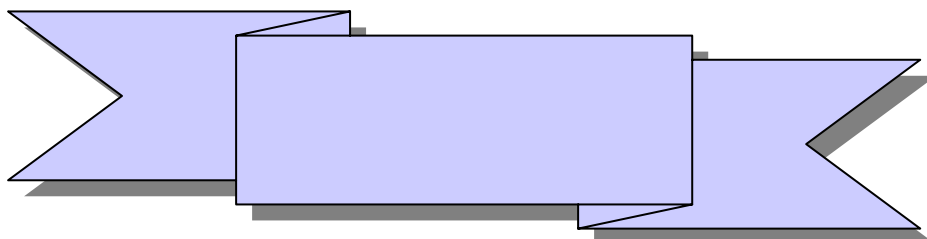
11.15am: Blank Sheet Agenda

11.45am: IRO Questions

12.15am: Normalising Debate

12.45pm: Lunch

1.15pm: Feedback and Payment.



Workshop 1

'Blanksheet Agenda'

Group 1

Good Points

- ✚ They think the looked after system teams are alright (social Care and Health).
- ✚ Think activities that are provided are o.k.- go on trips with social workers to flamingo land.
- ✚ Feel they are able to talk to their social workers sometimes.
- ✚ Social workers are not embarrassing.
- ✚ Residential workers give us money.
- ✚ Residential workers do work for us.

Bad Points

- ✚ Do not see social workers enough.
- ✚ Max card wouldn't let you in leisure centre.
- ✚ Do not have a Max card.
- ✚ Social workers never took me out.
- ✚ Never in office (Social workers).
- ✚ Shouldn't have the same social worker, might not have the same worker.
- ✚ Do not have enough communication with social workers, where you live.
- ✚ Social workers do not give me any money.
- ✚ Social workers does not give me any money.
- ✚ Social workers do not give me enough support regarding school work.
- ✚ Do not get regular medical checks.
- ✚ Cannot tell my mum that I am seeing my social worker, I have to go to the building.
- ✚ They can interfere in my social life too much.
- ✚ Slow on getting things sorted.
- ✚ Nothing gets done and it takes ages.

Changes

- ✚ See your social workers more.
- ✚ Have the same social worker at all times.
- ✚ Changes in reviews (looked after), do not go and I am not listened to enough.

Group 2

Good Points

- ✚ Don't come very often.
- ✚ Some are easy to talk to.
- ✚ Max card.

Bad Points

- ✚ Do not keep promises.
- ✚ Cancel appointments.
- ✚ Uncomfortable talking to them.
- ✚ Some social workers are not easy to talk to.
- ✚ Cannot trust them or rely on them.
- ✚ Do not treat you fairly.
- ✚ Cannot get hold of them easily.
- ✚ Do not really tell you what is going on.

Changes

- ✚ Like to see a social worker more, ones that actually come.
- ✚ Some one you get on with.
- ✚ More punctual and keep appointments.
- ✚ More social workers.
- ✚ Just one particular social worker.
- ✚ More aware of an advocate.
- ✚ More aware of children's rights officer.
- ✚ More Information.
- ✚ More Friendly atmosphere.
- ✚ Let people know what they are writing.

Group 3

Good Points

- + Care in Durham trips are alright.
- + Foster carers are alright but takes lots of placements to find the right one.

Bad Points

- + Cats are crap because you do not want to go, they come for you any way.
- + When you want to leave care they do not arrange it properly.
- + You get moved to often and they do not organise properly.
- + 64 different placements in the last 4-5 years, 6 placements in the last year but I am in a secure placement now. ? placements in 3 years.
- + Don't get to see social worker for a week when I try to contact them they are never there. Only in 3 Days a week.
- + Max Card, I had one but do not have one any more.

Changes

- + Change Social workers working days. (Some are going there a few days a week).
- + Trips have some weekend ones to places like lakes.
- + I only have one review card ask questions at review.

Workshop 2 'Independent Reviewing Officers'

- ✚ Never had one.
- ✚ Helpful- had one before.
- ✚ Get my review my views form- they are easy to fill in.
- ✚ I do not get on with my Independent Reviewing Officer.
- ✚ Try and tell you what to do.
- ✚ Think Independent Reviewing Officers are Boring.
- ✚ Think they are o.k.
- ✚ Most people only get the my reviews my views booklet out of the looked after reviews packs.
- ✚ Never go to my reviews any way because my first review I had they wouldn't let me as they said I was too young to give views so I cant be assed any more.
- ✚ Most people use my review my views booklet but think its shit.
- ✚ Boring old Farts.
- ✚ Tossers.

Workshop 3 'Normalising Debate'

Group 1

- ✚ Do not like it when you want to sleep out, they are always assessments and they check up on you.
- ✚ They say one thing then change their mind.
- ✚ Social workers wouldn't allow her to go sleep at families.
- ✚ Boring.
- ✚ Receipts are embarrassing and we should not have to get one.
- ✚ Pocket Money is Crap.

- ✚ Catchgate Children's home is a rubbish set up. Too long in Catchgate.
- ✚ Having to adapt to a new home all the time.

Group 2

- ✚ Police checks out the sonant in sleeping out.
- ✚ Make you feel like being looked after is a crime.
- ✚ Do not get looked down on in leisure centre when using Max Card.

Group 3

- ✚ No do what I want.
- ✚ Cant tell social workers things unless you want them to be talked about in your review.
- ✚ Get less choice.
- ✚ Two different schools.
- ✚ Do not get to stay at friends unless Police check (young people still think this).
- ✚ When your 16 yrs old you shouldn't have to be reported missing.
- ✚ When you move into Independent living you still have to have a social worker visiting.
- ✚ No Freedom cannot go out by myself.
- ✚ Cannot go on holiday without friends.
- ✚ Social workers are in charge of your life.
- ✚ Health checks we should only have to go when ill and you should be able to go by yourself.

Conclusion

Generally the young people had mixed feelings on the agenda day on a number of topics, from social workers and their punctuality and manner towards the young people to the Max Card and finding out information on social care and health and advocacy and health checks and help with education and they felt tired of assessments and were not aware that a young person is able to stop out for one night without that property having an assessment and this needs to be told across county Durham that Young people who are looked after can sleep out with having places CRB checked unless it becomes a frequent place where the young person is sleeping out or the young person is stopping there for a longer period of time.

Young people do not really trust their social worker as they are promised stuff and are then told no it seems unfair for the young people to be told this.

The agenda day was a success, and the young people felt intimidated by the Independent Reviewing Officers attending the whole 30 minute session, I take the blame for that but saw it as a chance for the young people to ask the Independent reviewing officers any questions whilst they were there.

In the normalising debate young people felt they shouldn't have to keep receipts and go through processes just to have a normal life. They felt like the looked after system was a prison for them. You don't seem to get freedom when your are in Care.