

MALAP Agenda Day

May 2007

Introduction

On Thursday 3rd May 2007 at 5.30pm till 7.30pm we held an agenda day at the Investing in Children office in Framwellgate Moor. The agenda day was facilitated by 4 young people from the Reference group. The young people attended were given a fee of £10 plus any travelling expenses were reimbursed. At the agenda day 14 young people attended to give and share their views and opinions.

We started off the agenda day with introductions of who we are and what we planned to do during the 2 hours and what we will do with the report. We then moved into the first workshop which was a blank sheet agenda. We asked for good points, bad points and changes they would like to see in relation to what services are available for children and young people looked after. After the first workshop we had a 10 minute break which then lead to the 2nd workshop which was directed questions, we discussed topics like NYAS- the National Youth Advocacy Service, the driving project, max card, MALAP stakeholders event in February, the celebration for achievement awards ceremony and the MALAP strategy and action plan.

Multi Agency Looked After Partnership Reference Group

Agenda

5.30pm- Start and sign in.

5.40pm- Introductions

5.50pm- Workshop 1- 'Blank sheet agenda'- Good Points, Bad Points and any changes within the Malap strategy. **What services are available?**

6.20pm- Break

6.30pm- Workshop 2- Directed Questions

Explain to group what the drive project is. It entitles looked after young people 17 years and over to free driving lessons, driving theory and practical tests and provisional driving license. We have overspent and need to put in place some criteria.

Drive Project criteria:

What Criteria do you think should be put in place?

- **Do you think it should be first come first served?** After that put young people on the list for next year.
- **What do you think about filling out forms?**

Max Card- Explain what the card is to the group. The card entitles children and young people who are looked after, foster carers and their immediate family to free leisure facilities and access to museums.

- **How are you finding out about it?**
- **What do you think of the scheme?**
- **Have you had any difficulties with the card, how, where or why?**

NYAS- National Youth Advocacy Service

- **Are you aware of how to contact NYAS?**
- **Do you have any experiences of using NYAS?** It is confidential so names will not be mentioned. **What are your views on it?**
- **Have you seen any publicity about it?**

Award Ceremony

- **What did you think about the celebration for achievement award for Looked after young people?** Good or Bad Points.
- **If you wanted to attend another award ceremony, what would you change?**
- **Do you think some of the awards would be better presented at school?**
E.g. sport
- **Did you enjoy or dislike the ceremony?**

MALAP Stakeholders event in February 2007-05-02

- **Good and Bad Points and what changes would you like to see?**
- **What did you think of the workshops? Good and Bad points, What changes would you like to see?**

What is good and bad about your key worker or support worker?

Groups Look at MALAP Strategy and action plan.

What do you think?

7.20pm Payment and Finish

Workshop 1- 'Blank sheet agenda'- Good points, Bad points and Changes.

Group 1

Good Points

- A lot of services do after help, empathise and support children and young people.
- Some services for children and young people looked after actually have involvement of children and young people looked after. E.g. IiC.

Bad points

- Not enough services e.g. socially or activity.
- Less professionals.
- Not a good enough age range e.g. after 21 for after care.
- Should be more recognised and services should be promoted more e.g. CATS.
- Not enough financial support.
- Connexions are useless.
- Education are not listening to you.

Changes they would like to see

- Services should support children and young people looked after more during their time as a child or young person looked after.
- Social services should have more involvement with schools, colleges and universities.
- Spread finance more evenly.
- They should have more teenagers to work schemes.
- Should give funding for Apprentice schemes.
- Should not go back on their word.

Group 2

Good points

- Loads of services, CATS, IiC, CID, CAHMS, NYAS, YPS, Connexions.
- CATS- going out

- Young peoples Service- sort things out for you.
- CAHMS- talk to them.
- Connexions- they are there when you need them.
- CID- something different, trips.
- NYAS- listen to you.

Bad Points

- Social services- not there when you need them.
- Social services- contact- you always have to meet them not them meet you.
- Housing- don't pay you.
- Always changing social worker and not getting in contact with you.

Changes

- Connexions- listen and write down correct stuff.

Group 3

Good points

- Does stuff for you.
- Takes me out.

Bad points

- Workers are not on time.
- Does not see family
- Not reliable
- Always on the sick.

Workshop 2- Directed questions

Drive Project criteria:

What Criteria do you think should be put in place?

- **Do you think it should be first come first served?**
- **What do you think about filling out forms?**

Group 1

- Prioritise who needs lessons.
- You should be able to have an application form for why and what reasons. Categorise from the form.
- It should be first come first served.
- Adoption should not affect the looked after service when you've been looked after before. If there has been any involvement from social services they you should be entitled to driving lessons.
- Filling out forms is ok but should be needed it should be given if needed.

Group 2

- Not first come first served should be when they get some money for it.
- Filling out forms- don't need any help can do it alone, might need some help if you don't know what you are doing.

Group 3

- Unfair because everybody should have the chance to get driving lessons.

Max Card:

- **How are you finding out about it?**
- **What do you think of the scheme?**
- **Have you had any difficulties with the card, how, where or why?**

Group 1

- I found out through IiC.

- Not promoted enough, not enough information. It is only targeted at certain age groups.
- Not everyone received cards.

Group 2

- Find out from Care in Durham.
- It lets you get in places that you would not go to if you had to pay.
- Problems- have to have the orange card. Dolphin centre, Newton Aycliffe leisure centre, cinema.

Group 3

- You need a b active card to use the max card.

NYAS- National Youth Advocacy Service

- **Are you aware of how to contact NYAS?**
- **Do you have any experiences of using NYAS?** It is confidential so names will not be mentioned. **What are your views on it?**
- **Have you seen any publicity about it?**

Group 1

- We are aware of how to contact NYAS- Free phone
- Little use of the service but it is confidential, resourceful.
- You can dictate and get what you want from the service. Easy to talk to.

Group 2

- How to contact.
- Experience- fighting for your rights and opportunities.
- Publicity- leaflets, teddies, cards, key rings, pens, fuzzy things.

Award Ceremony

- **What did you think about the celebration for achievement award for Looked after young people?** Good or Bad Points.
- **If you wanted to attend another award ceremony, what would you change?**
- **Do you think some of the awards would be better presented at school? E.g. sport**
- **Did you enjoy or dislike the ceremony?**

Group 1

- Not enough publicity.
- Good-motivating, publishing young people's success, encouraging, well organised.
- Nothing to change.
- All the awards were categorised well in order.
- Take the microphones out in the audience. Annoying the presenters.

Group 2

Good points

- Good achievements, young people get noticed, it proves not all young people are bad, young people get to see what achievements other young people have made.

Bad points

- Dragged on a bit ,should have been on shorter.

Changes

- Give the awards out first then explain what they are for because they are all similar.
- The awards have nothing to do with school, nobody liked it really.

MALAP Stakeholders event in February 2007-05-02

- **Good and Bad Points and what changes would you like to see?**
- **What did you think of the workshops? Good and Bad points, what changes would you like to see?**

Group 1

- Everyone enjoyed themselves, meet different people, everyone enjoyed themselves.
- Learned different things
- Ran out of time.
- Loads of mess after.
- Not a lot of young people.

Group 2

- Well organised but need more food.
- Organised throughout, inputted a lot and would like to see our requests answered.

What is good and bad about your key worker or support worker?

- Acts more like a social worker and arranges contacts and gets you anything.
- Bitch.
- They help you.
- In residential they are not always there.

Conclusion

The agenda day was a success and there were a lot of views and opinions given in the agenda day. There were mixed feelings regarding the MALAP strategy. Young people discussed services that were available to them and what they would like to change within those services. Similar issues such as not enough financial support arose and how services involve children and young people. I would suggest that changes are looked at and the strategy must feedback to children and young people with what they can do to make changes.