

# Young NCB Research Advisers Newsletter

## 28<sup>th</sup> October 2010

Research  
Centre



### Who was at the meeting?

*Young people:* Thomas, Jake, Robert, Benjamin, Grace, Eleanor, Rishika, Roxanne, Labomi, Alice, Kadeem, Chloe, Adam, Maisie, Angele and Ceyrone

*Facilitators:* Ciara and Louca-Mai

*Other staff:* Becky, Ivana, Jo L and Jo B.

### What did we do?

We did lots of things at this meeting. At the beginning we played the Smarties speed dating game, so everyone could get to know one another better.

Everyone got into two lines and the people in one line had to choose a Smartie and ask the person opposite a question on a topic which matched the colour of the smartie. After one minute, we swapped roles so that everyone had a chance to eat Smarties and ask and answer the questions. This was lots of fun!



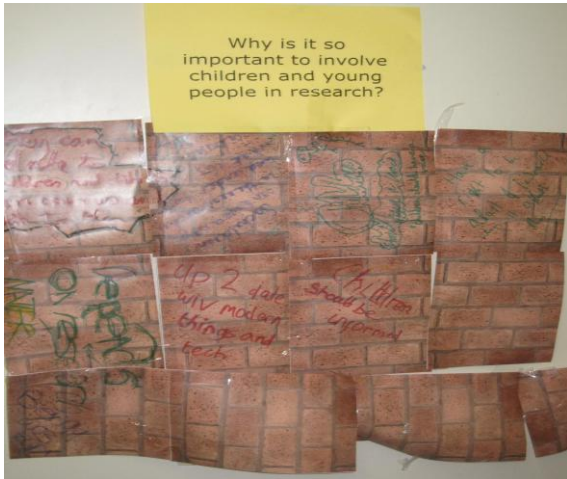
### Session1: What is NCB?

In the next session we told you a little bit more about the type of work we do at NCB, and the projects we run at the Research Centre. We said that involving children and young people in our work has been very successful but after a project ends we often lose young people, so we decided to form a new group who could work more closely with us on a number of different projects and who could build up their skills as researchers, evaluators and writers.

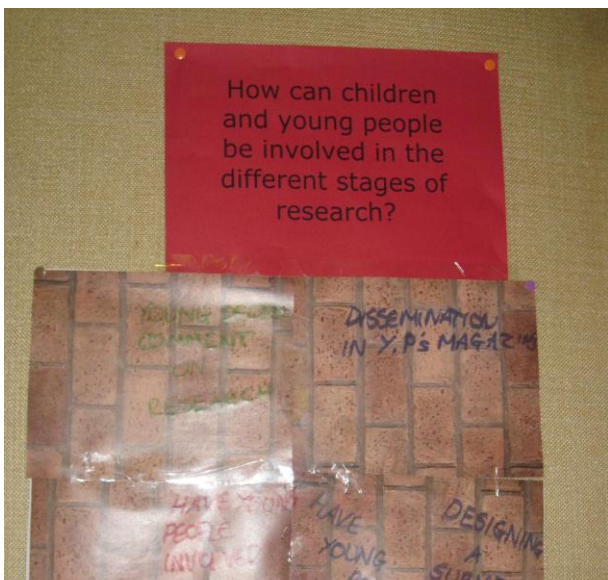


We then did a training exercise on what is research, how do we do research and why is research important. Here we asked for your ideas about how young people can be involved in research and what roles they could undertake.

When we asked why is it important to involve children in research, you told us that you can relate better to other children and can talk to them on their level, and that all children have a right to have a say in issues that affect them.



You told us that some of the challenges of involving children in research include adults really listening, children being confident enough to get their views across or feeling that what they have to say won't be taken seriously.



## Session 2: Proposal Writing

After lunch we did some work on proposal writing and we split into two groups. One group worked with Ivana and Louca-Mai and looked at a proposal to evaluate the Youth in Focus programme which helps young people leaving care, those in young offender institutions and young carers make big life decisions (for example, about their education and career), despite living in difficult circumstances.



The other group worked with Jo and Ciara who asked them what issues they thought we should be prioritising if we wanted to do some research on children's views of the environment. We looked at what we knew about the research that had been done so far, and we talked about what methods would be best to use for this research and who we should involve in the research i.e. younger children or older children or both?

We will be doing a follow up session on this at the next meeting on **15<sup>th</sup> January.**

### **Session 3: Young NCB**

Nick and Robin then came along to explain who Young NCB are and Robin did a presentation on how everyone can use the social networking site 'my space' to keep in touch with one another.

Everyone should have returned the consent form that Robin gave out but if you haven't, **can you contact Rachel and she will send you another one**

[rkingston@ncb.org.uk](mailto:rkingston@ncb.org.uk)



### **Session 4: The Conference**

In the last session we talked about our plans for a conference we are going to hold on **29<sup>th</sup> March 2011**.

We spilt into groups and looked at

- How could the YNCB Research Advisers be involved in delivering this conference?
- What roles could children and young people undertake?
- How could we make the conference more interesting?

You told us that you could be presenters on the day and could co-chair some of the sessions. You stressed that this should be a fun and interactive event with audience participation. You also suggested getting a guest speaker like Stephen Fry, Alan Davis, Nick Clegg or John Bercow, and having interesting short presentations with “no waffling” and “nice food”. We're going to work with as many of your ideas as we can when we're planning this conference.

### **Feed back Session**

Almost everyone said they enjoyed the meeting “a lot” and that there were lots of opportunities to have your say. Everyone also said that they understood the sessions and that the amount of information we gave was “just about right”. You said the best thing about the meeting was “learning what NCB does” and “meeting new people”. The only thing that could have been done differently was a later start time because many of you had to travel long distances.

### **Dates of next meetings**

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> January at NCVO**

**Saturday 5th March at NCVO**

**We will send you maps and all the information you need for these meetings in the post.**