

# Young NCB Research Advisers Newsletter

## 15<sup>th</sup> January 2011

Research  
Centre



### Who was at the meeting?

*Young people:* Jake, Robert, Ben, Abbie, Linda, Ellie, Alice, Kadeem, Ugo, Masie, Ceyrone, Grace, Angel, Rishika, Roxanne, Labomi, and Chloe.

*Facilitators:* Ciara and Louca-Mai

*Other staff:* Catherine and Ivana.

### What did we do?

This was an action packed meeting which started with a game of human bingo where everyone had to write down the names of one or two people who shared something in common – like wearing patterned socks. Very trendy!



We also set some ground rules about how we would work together in this and future meetings. We agreed as a group that:

1. Everyone should respect other people's opinions and listen when someone else talks.
2. Everyone should participate in the sessions.
3. No swearing.
4. Be on time for sessions.
5. Put mobile phones to silent during the meetings.
6. No leaving the building without telling a member of staff.

I think for our next meeting we should also to this list “no bullying” and this should include not posting anything on the NCB space that might cause another young person to feel upset or hurt.

The remainder of the day was divided into different sessions.

### Session1: Private Fostering

In the next session we told you a little bit more about how researchers get their money to do research and we asked you what types of things might funders look for when they are deciding whether to pay for research.

You told us that it was important for research to uncover something new that could make a positive difference, and offered good value for money and that research which could produce other outcomes (such as training tools or changes in law or policy) would be favourably looked upon.



We then divided into 3 groups where we discussed what you thought we should focus on if we were to do some research into private fostering. Each group had different ideas, but one common theme was to look at why are children private fostered. At least 2 groups thought that we should focus on groups such as disabled children, very young children and/or asylum and refugee children as they are particularly vulnerable. Another group thought that in addition to talking to privately fostered children, we should also interview social workers and parents to get their views and one group suggested that we should develop a training pack or guidance to make social workers more

aware of what to look for when investigating whether a child is private fostered.

Here's what Ceyrone thought of this session: "I thought that the meeting we had on 15th January was really good and I had a lot of fun. I especially enjoyed the task we had to, which required us to come up with different ideas on how private fostering could excel their service for the children and carers involved. I can't wait for the next meeting!"

### **Session 2: The PRU**

We've had good news from the Department at the Health who has asked the Policy and Research Unit (PRU) to set up a group of young people who can act as advisers on health related research projects. Although we have to work out the details of the research we would be working on, we asked the group was it was a good idea if a health researcher visited our meetings in the morning and did some health related research (which we would produce training on), then in the afternoon, we would do some work connected with the Research Centre (such as feeding into a proposal on the environment, planning a conference, designing web pages). Most people seemed happy with this arrangement and we said we would update the group with more news on the PRU at the next meeting.

### Session 3: The Conference

We told everyone that although we only had room for 6 young people to attend the conference on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2011, we still wanted everyone to get involved in this event so we divided into groups and looked at three questions:

- **Why and how should children and young people be involved in the research process?**
- **What challenges might young people's involvement present - for researchers and young people?**
- **Why is it important that the government values the involvement of young people in research?**

As well as discussing these questions we also talked about may be doing a vox pox or making a short film which we could show at the start of the conference about why the it is important to involve young people in research.



You also suggested lots of different roles young people could

play on the day such as using a traffic light system to warn speakers that their time was almost up, and getting young people to sit at different tables so they could encourage adults to talk to one another. Lots of people signed up to different roles on the day and we will be drawing names out of a hat to decide who can attend.

### Session 4: Writing articles a logging onto Young NCB sp:



By the final session, almost everyone in the group had logged on and activated their Young NCB space account. **Lots of people still have to put a profile picture (!!!!!)** and some people have posted some comments which you can check out at:

[www.youngncb.org.uk](http://www.youngncb.org.uk)

Members community

Visit Young NCB space

Log on now to see what others have posted!!!

As will be using this website more and more, please make sure you know how to:

- Update your profile
- Upload your profile picture
- Comment on a photo
- Comment on the newsletter

We also worked in groups to write an article for the Loudspeaker magazine, the Participation Works

website and the Research Centre Newsletter. Some groups are using the website to share drafts of their articles which is great!!! **The deadline to get these articles to Ciara ([cdavey@ncb.org.uk](mailto:cdavey@ncb.org.uk)) is 11<sup>th</sup> February.**



### **Feed back Session**

Almost everyone said they enjoyed the meeting “a lot” and that there were lots of opportunities to have your say. Almost everyone said that they understood the sessions and that the amount of information we gave was “just about right”. The venue and the food also got the thumbs up! You said the best thing about the meeting was group work/working with new people and the session on private fostering. Typical comments included:

“The fact that every person could relate to each other when put into groups and the coordination between everyone.”

“The best thing about the day was learning about Private Fostering. Before the session I knew nothing about it”



When asked if there was anything that could have been done different 8 out of 16 said ‘no’. Four people who did answer this question said the food could have been better and two more people said it would have been good to do more interactive activities/games which we’ll take on board for the next meeting. Overall, 9 out of 17 of you rated the day as ‘excellent’, 4 said it was ‘very good and 3 said it was ‘good.

“I thought that the day was even better than last time, especially the food and seating arrangement. The staff were really friendly.”

“It was a wonderful day and I feel lucky to be a part of it.”

“I really enjoyed meeting with the other Young Research Advisors for a second time. We are really starting to bond as a group, and it looks like there are some interesting tasks coming up! It’ll also be interesting to see how much progress has been made by the next meeting, especially with the research into Private Fostering” (Alice)

**Next meeting in on Saturday 5th March at NCVO. We will send you maps and all the information you need for these meetings in the post.**