

Young NCB Research Advisers Newsletter

16th July 2011

Research
Centre



Who was at the meeting?

Young people: Jake, Robert, Abbie, Thomas, Kadeem, Ugo, Ceyrone, Angel, Roxane and Adam.

Facilitators: Jo and Helena

Other staff: Chloe and Dan.

What did we do?

We started the day with a fun game of 'Hoop Race' where we had to hold hands while standing in a circle and without letting go pass the hoop and the rope around the circle. We then did a quick reminder of the group rules, a brief update on what we did at the last meeting in March and talked through what we'd be doing during the day. It was explained to the group that unfortunately Ciara and Louca-Mai have both left NCB due to a restructuring process. However, it was also made clear to the group that NCB has funding for this group to continue for at least 2 years!

Session 1: Measures of smoking, drinking and drug use

Dan from the CPRU joined us for the morning sessions. In the first

session we divided into 3 groups and talked about what we thought were acceptable levels of smoking, drinking and drug use for young people. We also looked at what risks smoking, drinking and taking drugs might have on young people's physical and mental health.



There was a variety of views expressed in the groups ranging from it being not being acceptable for young people to smoke, drink or take drugs at all, too those that thought it was OK if you tried them just the once but it was not a good idea to do them all of the time, to those that thought that smoking and drinking was OK if you did it at the weekend only.

Finally for this session the group looked at definitions of 'regular use' and some of you were surprised at how little was classed as regular use whereas some of you thought this was a good definition of regular use.

Session 2: violence, aggression and bullying in schools

For the second session with Dan the group went on to discuss different forms of violence, aggression and bullying. The young people were divided into 3 different groups for this session. The different forms of bullying that were suggested by the group included name calling, cyber bullying including bullying that happens on social networking sites, excluding friends from activities, and physically hurting people by hitting and kicking them. Using this list of different types of bullying the groups then looked at questions from 3 different questionnaires to see if these questions covered all of the different types of bullying and aggression in schools.



Session 3: Aspects of the school environment that have an impact on bullying and aggression

In groups we talked about different aspects of the school environment and how these might impact on bullying and aggression. Some of the aspects we talked about were teacher behaviour, support staff, sports, and school policies and rules. Issues that were raised included teachers not following the school policies with regards to bullying, substitute teachers should not be used as pupils will bully the teachers and know that nothing will happen to them, revising the punishment for bullying as it makes no sense that bullies are suspended from school, and allowing young people to do sport as it enables them to 'let off steam'. However, sports lessons were also seen as a time when bullying could be a problem because young people may not be chosen to take part in teams and verbal bullying may take place if the young people are not very good at doing sports.



Session 4: Feedback from the Conference and Private Fostering Proposal

This was the first meeting of the group since the Conference in March and so we gave some feedback on what the delegates who attended the meeting thought. From the evaluation forms 86% of participants said that they thought the programme content was excellent or good, and 89% felt the conference met their expectations.

We also received comments such as:

'Great to see young people involved on the actual day!'
'The young people did really well'
'I thought it was really good having young researchers at the event, also thought the question time panel was a really good idea'



We asked the young people who attended the conference what they thought. Adam said he had a great day and really enjoyed himself. Ugo agreed with this but felt that it would have been good to have more young people at the event so that they could have seen what went on and to help out at the start of the day as it took time to set up the meeting. Jo will seek the views of other young people who attended the conference and feed this back to Ivana, the head of the Research Centre.

Catherine provided some more information on the outcome of the private fostering proposal that some of the young people had been involved in developing. She had taken on board the comments made during the session and focussed the research on getting the views of children, parents and carers and particularly wanted to find out why parents set up private fostering arrangements and what children thought about being in a privately fostered arrangement. The proposal was put to the Nuffield Foundation but unfortunately was unsuccessful as the proposal did not fit in with their research priorities. We are obviously disappointed!

Session 5: Doing in-depth interviews

For the final part of the day we did a session on in-depth interviews. This involved training to improve listening skills, showing respect to people's views, and thinking about the different types of questions you can use in interviews.

Everyone was then split into groups to come up with a short topic guide for them to do role-play interviews. Once everyone had had a practice these role-play interviews were then recorded.



The Research Centre will now take these role play interviews and edit them into a video to be used with other young people as a training tool. The final video will be shared with the group!

Session 6: What you thought of the day!

Overall, all of the Young Researchers that attended the meeting said that they either liked the meeting a lot or a little and that they were happy with the amount of participation and information they received. However, only 55% said that they were happy with the food that was provided. The sessions that were enjoyed the most included the training for the interviews and doing the role-plays; and the discussion focusing on different types of bullying in school. Comments included:

'I really enjoyed the meeting.'
'The staff and young people are all lovely and fun to work with'
'We should have longer breaks'
'The participation and the mood of the whole meeting was v. enlightening'

Next meeting

The next meeting will be on Saturday 17th September at NCVO and we will send you some further information nearer the time.