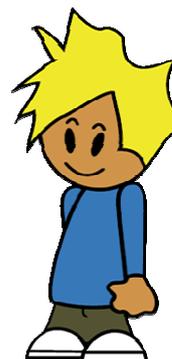




## Minutes of the Meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2012

### **Present**

Kira (Chair)  
Nicole  
Paige  
Chris  
Claire  
Megan



Becky (Children's Rights Officer)  
Kerry (Children's Rights Assistant)  
Jodie (Children's Rights Assistant)  
Janet (Team manager)  
Gemma Waygood (ERSCB)

### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Kira chaired the meeting today and thanked everyone for coming along. We were joined at this meeting by the Participation & Rights Team's new Manager; Janet- so we all went around the table and said our name and something about ourselves too!

The group were then reminded of the rules on the board.

### **2. Minutes from Last Meeting**

Some of the group said they had not received these. Becky reminded the group that they are sent at the same time as the invites. These minutes are also put onto our website [www.rights4u.org.uk](http://www.rights4u.org.uk) for anyone who loses them and wishes to take a look at what we've been getting up to!

Last meeting we were visited by John from the police who did a session on water safety.

### **3. Updates**

Becky explained how we had some interviews fairly recently for a residential worker to work at one of the local authorities children's homes; and Nicole and Chris from this group had participated in these. Ricky from the adult's panel had come to speak to the young people to gain their thoughts on the candidates, and he gave high praise for the young people involved- well done!!!

Becky reminded the group that this would be the last YPSG meeting that takes place at Manor Way, as the team are moving on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of May to their new offices. The groups will take place there in future, which is only around the corner at Anlaby Children's Centre! It was agreed by all that we will have a 'welcome' YPSG meeting with pizza and cake. Becky suggested we have party bags instead of vouchers which were agreed by some to be a good idea.

Becky said she was hoping to take the group to the fire service training headquarters next month, but has yet to hear back from Paul about this. We will therefore have the welcome party next month and the outing another. Keep checking your invite to find out what's going on!!

#### **4. Leaflet- Respite Care**

It had been a suggestion at a previous meeting that we do a leaflet for young people who are to access 'respite' foster care. Becky thought this was an excellent idea that the group could get on board with and design!

Some young people and Becky explained to other members of the group what 'respite' foster care is.

Respite foster care is sometimes referred to using different terms, for example; 'short breaks.' It is when a young person who is living at home or with foster carers, goes to a fostering family for a short period of time. Respite care can be arranged on a one off or a regular basis. It can also be arranged for short periods of time (such as a few hours) or for longer stays of a week or more. Respite care is usually arranged on a planned basis, but it may be arranged quickly in an emergency situation.

Respite foster carers give children the chance to experience variety and make new friends.

Children may attend respite for a wide range of reasons. It may be due to a family crisis or problem for which they need some support or assistance. This includes a family illness, the parents finding the child's behaviour very difficult to handle or the parent is not coping. It may be because a foster carer has a planned event which the young people cannot attend (such as a holiday, funeral etc.) Respite care offers a break or a series of breaks that could act to prevent a family breakdown and it seeks to maintain a child in their own home and helps to keep families together.

It can be scary at first for a young person to go and stay with a family they don't know, so this leaflet will hopefully offer them some reassurance, answer some of their questions or worries and let them know who they can talk to if they have a problem.

The group came up with some fab ideas to get us started!

These are as follows:

- Having a 'questions you might be thinking....' section
- Title to be something like ... 'take a brake' 'need a brake?'
- Having pictures on the front of different types of homes- flat, house, tent
- Quotes like "They are not aliens" "They won't bite."
- Having a 'things you may have heard about respite that aren't true...' section
- Have a section at the back for the social worker to fill in with the young person that includes the following:
  - Names of foster carers. Ages? What pets they have.
  - Other young people in household and their ages, names
  - Tick box of what sort of home they will be staying in, e.g. bungalow, flat, house
  - Dates staying there and duration of visits.
  - How they will be getting to their foster carers house and what time it will take.
  - Questions to ask your carer section: what's bedroom like, what are the routines/rules, any planned events coming up?
  - Useful contact numbers- the teams, social workers.
  - Having a section where it says 'your social worker is...' you can contact them on.....'

Young people also felt strongly that social workers should stay a short while when the young person is dropped off at the carers, such as an hour so they have chance to settle in. Some young people in the group shared experiences of having to go on their own or be dropped off and immediately left.

Another young person commented that they asked their social worker to meet the carers before hand; and this was planned. This young person felt they were listened to by their social worker and they offered to stay a while when they were dropped off. The young person had said no because he felt comfortable there; but was given the choice of this.

I will give these great ideas to John in the team to put some drafts together, and we can revisit at another meeting. This leaflet will be an electronic version to go on the councils website that social workers can download and take to the child who is to attend respite foster care.

Young people commented whether social workers will use it or that they may not know about it. It was therefore agreed we could do a publicity poster and send that around all the teams. It was also suggested having a poster to go up in schools after the leaflet is completed to let young people know what respite foster care is.

### **5. ERSCB Newsletter**

Gemma from the Safeguarding Unit joined us to discuss the newsletter. Young people looked at this and commented that it needs more dudes on and a picture of a fire truck when talking about the fire service visiting us the other month. Also to put on it at the bottom that we're moving!

Gemma brought with her some chocolate and sweets, and Janet some biscuits- thankyou.

### **6. Date and time of the next meeting**

The next meeting is on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2012 at the Children's Centre.

(Remember that it's first come first served and there's a maximum of 8 young people per group. So don't forget to let Becky know as soon as you get the invites if you'd like to come or not.)



Thanks everyone