

# YOUNG PERSON'S FORUM

Young people's meeting 6th November

We started the meeting with a general chat about what everyone has been up to.

I then showed the team the logo Geoff has adapted for our use and explained that Geoff has said the righting could be done using a similar font if they wanted it or it could be left as it was with the handwriting.

The group requested seeing it with the other font so they could make an educated decision.

I mentioned to the group that we were looking at creating an event in January. We explored that everyone was busy over December there was lots of nice things happening but come January everything was quiet and not much happened. I explained to the team that we needed an event that catered for all ages stages and abilities. The team agreed that this would be very difficult to find an event that would be so inclusive but they would continue to think about this.

The team talked about what we would like to get out of an event in January. We explored that the team have only ever seen or read books written by adults for children and young people. We explored the option of gathering information from young people at the event on how they cope with their emotions or what their coping strategies are and from this creating their own information leaflet or booklet on support with how to deal with emotions. The team talked about this being distributed amongst young people within care visions. They talked about it being a lot of work to pull this together but they feel it would be good for the young people in care visions.

We went on to watch a short video on the children and young persons commissioner. The team had a discussion about the importance of this role within the Scottish Government.

The group talked about how their peers view foster care. There was mention that its really annoying that people don't know the difference between stepfamilies, adoptive families, and foster families. I asked if this was discussed within the school setting. The team mentioned that children's rights is taught in school however there are no discussions about different family types. Another young person talked about his experiences, they say things like your family don't love you, your family gave you up. We all talked about how hurtful these things can be. Another young person mention they don't understand this is not my stepfamily. A stepfamily is very different. I hate in school

when someone makes a joke about family and then look at me and say oh sorry. I wasn't mad about the joke I don't mind the joke but it makes me feel not very nice when they say sorry. I want them to know this is my family we are a family.

I asked the young people if they wanted to do something about this. There was a bit of a discussion about what could be done. The group we're not sure if they could challenge this. However they want things to change. One idea was a leaflet designed by care visions young people and sent out to all schools in Scotland for the children so they could start to understand what fostering is.

Later in the meeting we looked at a video explaining the promise. We explored how care visions are keeping the promise. There was a chat about how social work have previously promised one young person something, unfortunately this did not happen. He went on to say but when I ask SSW or TFW about things I was told, I will get back to you with an answer and they always do. He went on to say it isn't always what I want the answer to be but you help me understand why the decision was made. There was mention of possibly recreating a similar video on care visions and keeping the promise. Then for the video to be put on the landing page for the young people's forum.

We finished up today's meeting by recapping on everything we had talked about. We all agreed that we've got big plans for the future of the young persons' forum.