

Children and Youth Network Event

27/4/07

Report of the Day

Background

The Network of groups working with Children and Young People exists to support voluntary sector organisations in their day to day practise and with interaction both with other voluntary groups and statutory partners.

For the first event of 2007 a mass invite was issued to as many groups as possible in order to make contact with both those who worked with young people on a day to day basis and those whose work occasionally led them into contact with children and young people's issues. The topics for discussion on the day were set as Estyn and Play.

On the day

There were presentations received from Pete King – Children's Partnership Project Officer and Pembrokeshire's dedicated Play worker, Keith Thomas – Chief Executive of Youth Cymru and representative of CWVYS on 2 Young People's Partnerships and Lee Hind – Children and Youth Planning Facilitator and recently a Peer Inspector for Estyn.

All of the speakers utilised MS Power Point for their presentations and these notes are available on request.

Following the three presentations the event attendee's had the opportunity to comment on and raise queries about the content they had heard. This was achieved through three focus groups, facilitated by PAVS staff. Attendee's were asked questions on the relevancy of the presentations to their work and how informative they were, as well as being given the opportunity to raise questions to the presenters. The results were as follows:

Presentation 1 – Play, Pete King



Was the presentation relevant to you?

- Yes
- Very much so – gave a good outline of developments
- Play strategy needs to include something about taking/managing risks, H+S is deemed more important than the play needs of the child.
- The question at the beginning that got us all talking was useful

Was the presentation informative and helpful?

- Yes
- Very informative and interesting
- Organisational issues seem to be given a higher priority than the needs of the child, there is a need to refocus on the child
- Need to influence both the child and parent to take responsibility

Do you have any follow-up questions?

- How will the money end up with the children?

- Lots of help needed – top down as well as bottom up.
- Pete was asked if this was a new post – replied that play development is not a new idea but the post is new in Pembrokeshire.
- Pete was asked what his vision is for the future – replied that he hopes to help children regain control as the adult play agenda has taken over. Adults need to be trained in how to let children play on their own (there is a need to include parents in this) – Play Wales training is available

Presentations 2&3 – Estyn, Self Assessment and Inspection



Were the presentations relevant?

- There was too much jargon, some people did not know about Estyn and YPP etc (response: if anyone would like further help with this topic, please get in touch lee.hind@pavs.org.uk)
- Yes, very useful
- A little worrying, communication a problem within some organisations.

Were the presentations informative and helpful?

- Yes, accreditation used as a positive influence for young people
- Allayed fears over confidentiality
- Useful to know that areas of good practice are attributed to organisations while more negative comments are generalised.
- The presentations overstated the difficulty of the process – once started it flows quite easily
- Good focus on the importance of getting involved

Do you have any follow-up questions or comments?

- The YPP is hamstrung, there are political reasons why certain groups cannot get involved as much as they would like.
- Why do they not allow more than an hour for each inspection? (response: this is a guideline length of time and is negotiable with inspectors. Estyn have incredible pressures on their time during inspection and will try to visit as many organisations as possible, within the time allowed. Inspection of a session takes far longer than the actual observation (travel, report writing etc) and some inspectors may have to make 3 observations per day.

Are there any support/training needs from your organisation to assist you with the SAR process?

- Dummy self assessment/inspections (response: these can be arranged by contacting Lee – lee.hind@pavs.org.uk)
- Training – however groups will need to be reimbursed for their time to attend
- Process was quite daunting, need training prior to start of the process, SAR process was too broad (response: The SAR process, including the questions within it, is designed to be broad to capture as many organisations as possible. There is however an acceptance that some groups found it difficult to match their provision to the Key Questions.)
- It is difficult to balance doing the day job with taking the time to step back to review and improve services.
- Consistent communication from YPP – in non electronic format. (response: this is an issue for Lee rather than YPP as it his role to disseminate this information. There has been a focus on use of electronic methods of communication as it is easier and less time consuming for both sender and receiver. The YPP summary sheet is sent by hard copy as well as electronically, however we need to make sure that organisations who

want to receive children and youth mailings are so entered on our database. If you are not receiving these mailings, please get in touch)

- A YPP exhibition day may be useful – pure networking for all organisations offering services for young people with a focus on making links for the benefit of young people.
- Training in “distance travelled” tools and techniques
- Action centred learning to explore outcome based performance management.

Do you or your organisation have any news/information that you would like shared with the sector?

All contributions under this question will inform the next newsletter.

Following these discussion groups there was an opportunity for informal networking and discussion over lunch. I have received many requests for the caterers contact details which are:

Sandy Williams
“Buffets R Us”
01348 874815

My thanks go to Sandy for providing an excellent buffet, catering for all tastes and dietary requirements on the day.

For further information on this event or future events, contact Lee Hind at PAVS.