

**CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY  
PANEL  
6 JULY 2010  
5.30 - 7.40 PM**



**Present:**

Councillors Mrs Ryder (Chairman), Mrs Angell, Beadsley, Mrs Birch and Edger  
From SILSIP: Amy, Ellie May, Luke and Alan

**Apologies for absence were received from:**

Councillors Dr Barnard, Mrs McCracken and Mrs Shillcock

**In Attendance:**

Louise Hopkinson, Sheila McKeand, Penny Reuter and Sarah Roberts

**11. Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the training session, particularly SILSIP members Amy, Ellie May, Luke and Alan. This session was a first, with the young people as the trainers and the councillors and officers as the trainees.

**12. TRAINING SESSION**

An interactive session was delivered by SILSIP members with support from the Child Participation Development Officer. The four SILSIP members introduced the six exercises.

**Introductions and getting to know each other.**

Exercise 1 – In pairs the group were asked to find out about each other – what they had in common and what differences they had. They then had to introduce each other to the group.

**Agree/Disagree**

Exercise 2 - a number of statements were read out and everyone had to say whether they agreed, disagreed and to give the reasons why.

The statements were –

- a Britain's Got Talent is better than the X Factor
- b Chocolate icecream is better than vanilla
- c Children and young people have a right to be listened to and their views taken seriously
- d Children and young people's views are always listened to and taken seriously by all adults
- e Children and young people know what's best for them
- f Adults can learn as much from children and young people as children and young people can learn from adults

## **What is participation?**

Exercise 3 - In two groups, participants had to consider words describing participation and to put them in order of importance. Considered to be the most important were being respected, being heard, entering in, being involved, taking part.

In the draft Participation Strategy participation was defined as –

“For children and young people it is being actively involved in the decisions that affect us”

## **Why involve children and young people?**

Exercise 4 - Why should organisations involve children and young people and what are the benefits for young people and organisations? In the same two groups, the session had to draw a mind map giving the reasons why children and young people should be involved and the benefits for the young people.

Ellie May fed back the reasons for the young people's perspective which they had prepared prior to this training session – important, pride, respected, involved with people in care and making new families, sharing experiences, helping other young people.

## **Being listened to**

Exercise 5 – Participants were asked to think about when they were young and weren't taken seriously and to describe how it made them feel –  
sad, undervalued, ignored, bewildered, upset, foolish, angry, worthless, hurt, confused, rebellious, unfair.

Exercise 6 – Participants were asked to think about a time when they had been listened to and how it made them feel –  
valued, special, useful, loved, happy, reliable, important, proud, grown up, responsible, trusted, respected, warm, secure.

These exercises put everyone in the shoes of a young person and reminded them of what it felt like not to be listened to. It also made the adults think “Do we listen?”

## **Sharing our experiences**

The young people shared some of their experiences of being involved in SILSIP.

Ellie May had been involved in SILSIP since its inception in the summer 2007. She had represented SILSIP at Corporate Parenting Advisory Panel meetings, the Science Museum and Newbury conferences and had been on recruitment panels.

Amy had been a member of SILSIP since its second meeting. She had helped arrange the Well Being day at Oakwood and had attended the CPAP meetings the Science Museum conference and had been on recruitment panels.

Luke had been a member of SILSIP for 14 months and had taken part in the Children's Rights event at Legoland. He had helped to interview the CPDO.

Alan was a new member who had taken part in the recruitment of the CPDO

Louise gave a huge thank you to the young people for delivering this session and thanked the members for their participation.

The Chairman congratulated Louise and the young people for a brilliant session, prepared at short notice. Certificates of achievement as recognition of their involvement were awarded to the young people and photographs were taken.

One more question posed for future consideration – How can the Corporate Parenting Advisory Panel involve children and young people more?

13. **Future Programme of Meetings**

29 September 2010 - Education of Looked After Children  
Exam Results

15 December 2010 - SILSIP  
Independent Reviewing officer's report  
Annual Performance Report

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