

Youth Action Report February & March 2014

Our new name....

Youth Action; young people that change, shape and influence

What Happened?

In February and March, we involved 23 customers and clients over

- 2 Youth Action meetings
- 2 customer activities on Rayners Lane Estate in Harrow
- Mark Henderson attended the February Youth Panel meeting!
- We consulted young people on anyone@home, the Support Practice Policy and the Employability Offer



Feedback from Youth Action....

- Some clients would like to know more about the policies we use. Staff often say they're following policy and procedure so clients should know what these policies are
- Some Youth Action members praised their service for being 'strict' as it helps them be responsible, know boundaries and prepare them for move on. Other members commented that their service wasn't strict enough as some clients feel they can abuse the warning system and still stay in the service
- Youth Action would like preparations for move on to start the moment a client enters a service. It can feel really abrupt when it's first spoken about towards the end of the 2 years

Ask Youth Action

We asked Youth Action about;

1. Home Group's Employability Offer

Some have said that they would consider a job at Home Group if there was a guarantee of employment, if they knew more about the company ethos, if they agreed with the company ethos and if they received training and education. Others have said they'd need some encouragement from Home Group telling them that their past doesn't make them unattractive candidate for employment; it gives them life experience

2. Writing a Guardian Article About the Youth Panel

Different ideas include....

- Articles that raise awareness of different issues that affect young people e.g.: mental health, drugs & alcohol, the temptation to offend
- Article about 'Ask Youth Action'; an article to show that young people are making decision that change and influence Home Group
- 'Young People in Crisis Can Be Positive and Constructive'
- Article about the different Youth Action members and their stories

3. Question about Domestic Abuse from Sue Ward, Support Co-Ordinator

'Last time you advised us what you understood domestic abuse was. How do you think we could make more young people aware of domestic abuse so that they want to engage and understand the warning signs? '

Answer:

- Needs to be spoken about more, and in a more honest way
- Unless you're told what the warning signs are you might not know you're in an abusive relationship



- It would be helpful if someone who has suffered from domestic abuse could speak to young people about their experiences so they know the signs, but also know there's hope
- You could have awareness weeks in service and have a talk about different issues e.g.: domestic abuse

Working with Young Customers....

At the February meeting, Hayley Scarlett, Regeneration & Stakeholder Partner spoke to the group about her engagement work with young people on Rayners Lane Estate in Harrow.

Home Group have been working with Ignite, a Harrow based youth charity to create a partnership project called 'In the Mix.' This Lottery funded project aims to reduce crime on Rayners Lane estate, reduce fear of crime on the estate and develop community cohesion.

Sophie from the Involvement Team has been working with Hayley and the Ignite Team to involve young customers from the Rayners Lane estate. Young customers gave their opinion on the Employability Offer and ways we can involve more young customers.



Next Step....

A drop in Youth Action meeting will be held on Rayners Lane for customers

Young customers will continue to feed into Youth Action through consultation done at different engagement activities e.g.:

Rayners Lane 'Girls Group', and Open

Rayners Lane 'Girls Group'



Mic Night

If you have any questions about the Youth Panel, or have any clients or customers that would like to get involved please contact:

Sophie Cox: Involvement Advisor

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and please visit.....

['Family at Home Group 16-25'](#) youth Facebook page

