

**Regional Young People's Transition Meeting
Cookstown Leisure Centre – Saturday 30.11.13
Summary of the meeting**

The group came together to share their views on further developments of the Passports. The young people were also asked their opinion on the job role of a Social Worker.

As it was the first meeting for some people, the day began with the group re-capping on their work to date; outlining the Young People's Regional Group's purpose and function plus the development of the young people's Path.

The group was then told about the recent meeting of the CYPSP Sub Group on Passports. The Passport Sub Group have decided that there needs to be a standard front cover page to all Passports, so the young people spent some time designing possible logos.

The Group were informed of the proposed review of Social Work Training in Northern Ireland which is to be done by the Northern Ireland Social Care Council (NISCC). The young people were asked for their views and opinions of the role of Social Workers. DCYPPP staff acted out 2 Roleplays; each describing an example of "good" and "bad" practice between a Social Worker and Client. This was done to generate discussion between the group, before answering the following questions:

1. What is the role of a Social Worker (what do they do to help you?)
2. What characteristics does someone need to have to be a good Social Worker?

A "Body-Map" was used to capture feedback. The young people wrote different words/phrases in answer to "What is the role of a Social Worker (what do they do to help you?)" round the outside of the "Body-Map". Likewise, they wrote different words/phrases in answer to "What characteristics does someone need to have to be a good Social Worker?" and round the inside of the "Body-Map". Feedback was as follows:

What is the role of a Social Worker

- To help with domestic problems (ie) family arguments, etc
- To access all the needs of the child/young person & family.
- Take time with the child/young person & family.
- Social Workers should specialize in particular areas (ie) Children, Disability, etc)
- Social Workers should be well resourced and have good contacts.
- Social Workers should be able to sign-post people to relevant information if needed.
- Social Workers should be able to speak on my behalf (advocacy) and they should have good communication.
- There needs to be more Social Workers, so that they are not spread too thin.

What characteristics does someone need to have to be a good Social Worker?

- Helpful
- Accessible/Approachable
- Compassionate/Caring
- Nice
- Understanding
- Respectful
- Patient
- Friendly
- Social Workers should listen to people and take views onboard

The meeting came to an end with the group reflecting on what it was like for them at school. This was to influence the Department of Education's Digital Media Project. The themes that the young people highlighted were as follows;

Positive	Negative
Counseling in Special Schools	Can't access AHP services in mainstream schools. Such as Physio, OT or Speech and Language Services.
Disability Awareness training for non disabled students	Lack of Male teachers, Social Workers and Class room Assistants.
Integration of Children with	Not enough involvement of

disabilities in Mainstream schools	students in decision making in schools.
Specialist provisions such as safe environment for time out away from noise and others	Sometimes not good at dealing with bullying.
Positive attitude to disability.	
Focusing on ability rather than disability	
Buddy System to stamp out Bullying	

It was also suggested that teachers should receive disability awareness training from young people.

The young people will meet again in the New Year to carry on their great work. We thank them all for their input to date and wish them a very Merry Christmas!