

Appendix 2

The following report is an anonymised version of a report written by a young person who is involved in a traineeship. Whilst this young person is aware that the report is being presented to the Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee at this meeting, for reasons relating to compliance with Data Protection legislation and because it has not been possible to obtain the young persons written consent to the full disclosure of the report, this anonymised version of the report has been produced for the Committee. However the young person will be attending the private event following Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee Meeting to meet Members and discuss her traineeship experiences.

Traineeship Placement Report – Bridgend Youth Offending Service (YOS)

June 2011

The Traineeship

The Traineeship scheme is a really great opportunity for a young person. I was very grateful that I got chosen to be the first young person to start on this new programme. I had to go through the interview process to get the position. I thank the Restorative Justice in Schools Worker from Bridgend YOS for taking me and this traineeship under her wing. I feel that I have come a long way in the last six months and my confidence has grown dramatically. Every one in the YOS has made me feel welcome and like part of their team.

I had to get my CRB completed and I filled a form that allowed me to have an ID badge from BCBC.

This journey of the last six months has been great and I have loved every minute of it. I have had access to Ravens Court where the Corporate Training and Development Officer has been taking me through my Basic Skills course and I am now on Level 1 English and will be doing the maths section at a later date. I have completed my Level 2 Youth Work Award whilst I have been on this traineeship, fully supported by the Aftercare Team Manager, an Aftercare Worker and the Restorative Justice in Schools Worker.

My first day at the Bridgend YOS I was very nervous. When I first came in I met all the staff in the YOS office. I then sat down with the Restorative Justice in Schools Worker and went through the induction pack. This was quite a lot to read and understand but there was a month given to do this in. I arranged with individual staff in the office to sit with them and to get to know them and what they do, I found this interesting as it is a multi agency team.

I have been shadowing the Restorative Justice in Schools worker around on home visits and to the schools, sitting in on the mediation process with the Worker and the young person. The Worker introduces herself to the young person and tells them what the process involves. I have learnt how to step back from a situation and how to pass specific information on to other professionals and how to deal with a situation in an appropriate manner.

Confidentiality is a key part of the process and everyone has to be aware of what that means. I had already completed a course on confidentiality prior to being at the YOS. A conflict of interest was explained to me for me to understand the difference between that and confidentiality.

I have been taught how to fill in time sheets which are my responsibility, along with the requests for annual leave that are on a separate form. I have attended supervision, and I have seen how that works with the paperwork and what I sign if I agreed with what was written. At the beginning I signed a supervision agreement and a confidentiality statement.

I attended the council chambers where a presentation was delivered to the full council cabinet. The presentation was on the restorative justice in schools and the peer mediation project. There was a short presentation on prevention in the YOS. It was very informative and as the Restorative Justice presentation was taking place on the peer mediation slide. There were 3 peer mediators from Maesteg Comprehensive school that spoke about what they did in school to reduce any problems with pupils and how they really enjoyed being peer mediators. They spoke on behalf of Ynysawdre Comprehensive as well. I found this gave me even more information and knowledge on conflict resolution.

I attended a power point presentation at the YOS when the YISP and Prevention Officer presented how the bureau process would work. I have sat in on a filming session in Maesteg Comprehensive. The Restorative Justice in Schools Worker and the peer mediators from both Maesteg and Ynysawdre schools are making a film about the Restorative Justice project and the peer mediation project with Valley and Vale.

I have created 3 data bases for the Restorative Justice in Schools Worker on her computer. I had to put on this data base the number of the cases and the young person's name and who was involved. I have opened and closed cases along with all the paperwork needed to do that. I have sent out evaluation forms to the school when I have closed the case file. I and the Worker discussed what information she needs to do reports on her projects, this information had to be put onto the data bases.

I have done a lot of work with the Victim Offender Mediation Worker around anti-bullying. She wanted me to do posters with the young people in the YOS and I have been with the Aftercare Manager and another person down to Bridgend Court and Cardiff Crown Court. I felt very scared going to the courts. I didn't know I do to when I walked in or what to say in the court room. I was very nervous for the young people because I wouldn't like to be in front of the judge.

Every Thursday I go out with the Education, Training and Employment Support Worker to work with young people. I have attended a lot of meetings during my time at the YOS. The anti-bullying task group meetings, social, physical and emotional well being group being some of them, along with the regular team meetings that are on a Monday morning in the YOS.

I have completed my Level 2 in youth work and I am starting my level 3 in September.

When I was doing my youth work Level 2 I spent a week in the Just Ask shop in Bridgend Town Centre. In that week I helped the Youth Worker Detached Programme Officer to deliver issue based workshops, e.g. sexual health, drug awareness and smoking awareness. I also helped a young person get re-housed and I help a young person to get into training.

I have met a lot of important people in the six months that I have been here at the YOS with the Restorative Justice in Schools Worker.

Jo Farrar the Chief Executive

I met Jo Farrar at the Meet and Greet meeting for all new employees for BCBC. We were shown a power point presentation. When we were leaving Jo Farrar was standing at the step and I had the opportunity of speaking to her as I was leaving. It was a good experience meeting the head person of Bridgend County Borough Council. I introduced myself as the new trainee and explained my placement sits in the youth offending team.

Maesteg Comprehensive

Deputy Head Teacher and a Teacher

The teacher had shown me what the peer mediators do and how they prepare paper trail processes and how successful the project is. The teacher explained to me that it saves teacher time by sending in the peer mediators to sort out the disagreements with the young people, if there is a disagreement with a pupil and a teacher or if there is conflict in the family home they pass in on to the Restorative Justice in Schools Worker.

The Project in Maesteg

I have been helping to set up a project in Maesteg Comprehensive aimed at providing additional support for Looked After Children within the school setting.

Pencoed Comprehensive

I attended a power point presentation and an introduction to the Restorative Justice project, the Restorative Justice in Schools worker explained how mediation works and how it helps people. The Worker may be going into Pencoed next year.

Ysgol Gyfyn Llangynwyd Comprehensive

The Restorative Justice in Schools Worker has been working with a young person in Llangynwyd School. I worked along side the Worker supporting this young person. I have been going into the school doing one to one support sessions. I enjoyed this and the young person engaged well with me. When I explained that I would be changing placements to the Youth Service and leaving the YOS the young person tried to get me to stay and told me that I was awesome that was a nice thing to hear.
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Ynysawdre Comprehensive

Counselor

I have sat down with the Counselor a number of times as she is the main contact in the school. The Counselor explained her role and how she helps young people and how the peer mediator programme works along with arranging meetings when needed.

Safeguarding Officer
New Head Teacher

I have sat and met with the new Head Teacher for Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen in a meeting with the Restorative Justice in Schools Worker and discussed the Restorative Justice in school and mediation project and how it would benefit young people and teachers. The Worker and the project may be going in to the new school next year.

Every time I entered a property I had to sign in and again sign out when I left. This became a regular process wherever I went.

CYPP (Children and Young People Partnership)

I have found being part of a multi agency team a great experience, I have met a lot of people that are doing different jobs in the office where I was. Next door was the criminal justice side and social workers. I have found that I am more independent and know a lot more about the “workplace” and how that works with all its policies and procedures. I have also moved on in my life I am now living independently and in a new flat which is good.

