

Community of Practice
Forum 4; 30.06.21 14:00
Over Zoom
Minutes

Topic-[Young people](#)

Action	Action
<p>AKT Nathan presented the broad work of AKT.</p> <p>In brief summary AKT are a service that support LGBTQi+ young people [16-25] experiencing homelessness or living in unsafe homes. They provide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Advice and case work- Access to emergency short term accommodation- akin to a refuge- Education and training- Training professionals- Empowering those in need- Collating research. <p>Nathan also presented a case study of a young person who the service had worked with who had experienced multiple abuses and difficulties. He explained that over the last year there has been an increase in referrals/presentations and especially an increase from younger females.</p> <p>Barrier caused by professional who do not understand or are hostile towards those who identify as LGBTQi+ remain a constant challenge. In addition, the homeworking of family members and lack of safe places [like school] has led to more difficulty safely communicating with those in need.</p> <p>Further details and referral details for AKT can be found at https://www.akt.org.uk/what-we-do.</p> <p>AKT have recently published a 2021 LGBTQ+ Youth homelessness report which can be found online</p> <p>The presentation was followed by discussion around inclusion and training needs for professionals. We also touched upon the power of training, making a complaint and escalating concerns.</p> <p>Colleagues all agreed that one should not need to find a housing officer who identifies as LGBTQi+ to get a service where young people are not discriminated against or misgendered as is presently often the case.</p>	<p>Nick to share report with the minutes</p>

<p>New Horizons Youth Centre</p> <p>Emma presented the work of the New Horizons Youth centre, who are a service for 16-24-year olds who are homeless or threatened with homelessness. Their work is wide reaching and includes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Day centre - Outreach service [streets, community and prisons] - Case work, counselling, education and guidance in all aspects of life - Research and influencing change - Multi service approach as part of the London Youth Gateway [also including AKT] <p>Emma presented some stark figures which can be seen in the presentation circulated with these minutes. As are the referral forms</p>	<p>Nick to circulate presentation</p>
<p>MASH</p> <p>Mawuli presented the work of the MASH and family front door service, explaining the work of local authority in working with young people, especially when faced with homelessness. We discussed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The role of services and what they intend to do - The referral pathways and timings - The role of the crash pad and when this is used - The role of the Accelerated support team <p>Information will be shared with the minutes for each of these.</p> <p>Questions were asked about the crash pad and its capacity and Mawuli explained that where a need is evident capacity of the crash pad should not be the concern- an offer will be found where need is.</p>	<p>Nick to circulate presentation And additional documents</p>
<p>Young Roots</p> <p>Dan spoke to us about the work of Young Roots who are a small charitable service that work in several boroughs with Young refugees and Asylum seekers. They provide multiple services including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supported access to legal advice - Case work and partnership - Young leader groups - Sports projects - Language learning and support - Peer mentoring <p>Dan presented the case of a young person who he had worked with and discuss the reality of age assessments and the limitations of these. He gave a step by step explanation of the Home Office conduct these and the lack of scientific/measurable approach. Dan also explained the extent to which</p>	<p>Nick to circulate presentation.</p>

<p>incorrect age assessment impact the lives of those who they work with and the level of trauma caused.</p> <p>Due to the large number of people seeking asylum who have been placed in Brent hotels recently the service has been overwhelmed and do not have the capacity to support all, despite a great want to do so.</p> <p>When asked what could be done to support the service and those in need Dan noted the need for volunteers, case workers and mental health practitioners.</p>	
<p>Homeless link</p> <p>Lauren presented the guidance paper that was cocreated by Homeless Link and Just for Kids Law, which illustrates best practice on working with 16-17-year olds. The presentation and the document will be shared with the minutes of this meeting.</p> <p>The guidance has some clear explanation on the different routes for this cohort re making homelessness applications and the outcomes that these routes lead to.</p>	<p>Nick to circulate presentation and document link.</p>
<p>AOB and next session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussion around access to PRS for young people and we discussed the changes in the benefit cap. Emma will also share some information in potential routes to access rent deposit schemes. - Next meeting theme is NRPF. Likely end of July. 	