

Young People's Participation in Reviews

In Wandsworth, we think it is really important that young people are given the opportunity to participate in their childcare reviews in a way that is acceptable to them.

We know that young people have very differing views and feelings towards their reviews and we wanted to hear some of these thoughts, so we could see if there were things that we could do to make them better.

On Thursday 12th April 2007, we organised a 'voice your views' session where young people had the opportunity to share their experiences about the reviewing process.



18 young people came along in total, all making some really good suggestions and points as to what might need to change about reviews to get more young people to participate.



What you have here is a brief summary of their main points and comments...see if you agree or disagree!

- In reviews you have the opportunity to have your say, your voice gets heard.
- Advocates are a good thing but not enough people know about them and what they do.
- Young people said that reviews are too long, that they should be shorter.
- There were some irrelevant questions in the reviews. Sometimes the questions are vague and they get repeated.
- Some young people said reviews were boring and they should be more fun.

As you can see, young peoples feelings were quite mixed and while some thought reviews were a good opportunity to get their voices heard, others were not so sure :

“My reviews are really good...only a few things need to get changed”

“It’s for our benefit. They keep us informed about everything”

We want to feel that the review is all about us. We want respect

“They are a waste of time and space”

“ Feel nothing happens, nothing changes”

“ They say they will get you something like a computer but it takes months to get it.”

Questions, questions, questions, questions, oh yeah....and more questions

“From six years back I got told I’m too quiet in my reviews so from since then. ...that’s what’s changed me really, ever since then, I’ve been, well ok, if I’m gonna get heard, I’m gonna get heard and you are going to answer my questions, so I’m going to keep asking the same questions till you find me the answer”.

Advocates are a good thing but not a lot of us are aware of them.

“Remembering what to say is hard”

“Its difficult to have your say and interrupt adults”

“We should be given the opportunity to speak first”

“Those orange forms are rubbish, you need to change them”