



Rights Matters

Be happy
know your
rights

Getting the message across through storytelling

To help us think about how to present our next campaign on coming into care and moving placement, the YPOC Group had a Storytelling day at Inverurie in the summer holidays.

Laura had arranged for a Storyteller, Ruth, to come along to our YPOC group for the day and we had a whole day about Storytelling.

YPOC Group member, Aurin said, "Ruth was telling us stories and it was good to hear these stories. The first story was about a poor woman who had a rooster and there was a Sultan who stole the egg.

"We had pizza at lunchtime. Then we made story sticks after lunch. We decorated our stick with different materials, thread and wool, bells and other bright stuff. These things represented different parts of the story and the people in the YPOC group took turns to tell their version of the story.

"Everybody helped with the sound effects we had to do. It was good fun and we talked about what makes a good story-how to build a story- like how we tell it and imagining it in our heads. And we thought about how we can tell our stories to people, like at meetings. It was a great day."

Another member of the YPOC Group, Fiona added, "I enjoyed the day. The Storytelling was good. I liked that.

"We then made a story stick with materials to represent a bit of the story. That was weird, but good weird."



Welcome to the Winter issue of Rights Matters where we keep you up to date with all our news from Children's Rights and the Young People's Organising and Campaigning (YPOC) Group.

We hope you enjoy it.

We can hardly believe it's almost the end of 2017. And what a year it's been for the YPOC Group. We've been to the Scottish Parliament, we've rolled out our DVD, "Don't Judge, We're no different from you" to schools across Aberdeenshire. We've had a storytelling event, and lots more.

Now the YPOC Group is well on with our next campaign on coming into care and moving placements. Thanks to all of you who returned our questionnaire.

Thanks again to all the young people who have helped to write articles for the newsletter.

If you have any ideas, stories, jokes, poems or anything else please send them in to us at the address at the end. We are always looking for more people to contribute.

We hope you have a great Winter break.

Young people telling the council how to make things better

Youth Participation Day in Inverurie by Shane

The event

The event we attended was about getting young people from different secondary schools to come together and share their views about what they want to change. Jim Savege, Aberdeenshire Council's Chief Executive opened the event and we heard from an inspiring John Loughton from Big Brother.

Groups

We went into groups and for me it was- 'getting it right for every child'. There were a few discussions about how schools should get it right for every child across Aberdeenshire and we gave some feedback. After that we moved onto a team building challenge which involved working together.

YPOC Stall

During Lunch the YPOC members ran a stall telling everyone about the YPOC group and Children Rights and what we do. We had a lot of people who came to our stall and stopped and chatted to us and we talked about the last campaign 'Don't Judge - We're no different from you' that we ran.

During the day there was an opportunity to take part in deciding what priorities Aberdeenshire Council should have and we all had a chance to vote for the ones we thought important.

Questions and Answer time

After lunch we all gathered back into the hall for Question Time which was attended by Aberdeenshire Council, Police Scotland and the Children's Commissioner for Scotland.



My feedback

I really enjoyed it because it gave us an opportunity to meet new people, come together and tell Aberdeenshire Council what needs to change. It would be good to have another one so we can see what people have been doing and what changes they have made to make things better for young people.

What Aurin said about the Youth Participation Day

"The participation day was about children's rights and it was hosted by Aberdeenshire Council and Community Education department. John Loughton from Big Brother talked about his life and making goals and setting his life straight and I liked this because he was quite inspirational.

"At lunch time we had to put counters in a box to vote for priorities for the council.

"The Children's Commissioner for Scotland, Bruce Adamson was talking about his role and how important children's rights are.

"I enjoyed learning about children's rights and I felt like I had a say and the council members were listening."

YPOC Group helps children's commissioner decide his priorities

At our September YPOC Group Meeting Megan and Sarah-Louise came along from the Children's Commissioners Office to ask us what we thought the new Scottish Commissioner for Children and Young People, Bruce Adamson, should be doing.

We did lots of activities. On one, there were posters and we had to put stickies on saying what we thought were the most important things he should do first.

We put things like: "He should be looking out for children." And "He should listen to children."

Then we drew a person on a big sheet of paper and put the good qualities we thought he should have and the bad qualities we thought he shouldn't have.

We then had money jars about what he should spend his time on and we put plastic tokens into the ones we thought were most important.

It was fun. It was good to have different activities. We liked it that the Commissioner wanted to find out what we thought and Megan and Sarah-Louise wrote to us as well saying it had been helpful.

Fiona

The YPOC Group - Making a difference to looked after children in Aberdeenshire

Our next campaign

This campaign that the YPOC Group is now focussing on is about coming into care and moving whilst in care.

Group member Lauren said, "We chose this topic because it was of great significance to everybody in the group. It was because we felt when we first came into care it was dealt with wrongly or it could have been better.

"We have already sent out a questionnaire and would like to thank everybody for filling that out as it was of great use to our group and the campaign.

"In our last meeting we took the key information out of the questionnaire and made some heading to focus the different topics which are; people, feelings, communication, school, and relationships.

"When we meet up in the New Year we will look at all that and focus on the best way forward to make sure ALL of our voices are heard including all of YOURS."

Lauren

If you are over 12 and would like to be part of the YPOC Group get in touch with Kate or Laura at the address at the end.

Meldrum Academy takes a lead in showing pupils the "Don't Judge" DVD



Jasmine with Nicola Sturgeon at the presentation of the DVD in Holyrood

Meldrum Academy pupils from 2nd year up have all watched the YPOC Group's DVD, "Don't Judge - We're no different from you" thanks to the work of Jasmine, one of the group members.

Jasmine spoke to senior management in the school and organised for pupils to see the DVD at four assemblies over the course of two weeks in October. With the help of Laura, Lynne and Kate, she explained why the YPOC Group had made the DVD and what has been achieved so far.

The pupils seemed impressed with the DVD and some of them spoke to Jasmine afterwards to tell her that they had learned a lot from watching the DVD. The Head Teacher, Mr Travis commended Jasmine's work and reminded pupils that they can make a difference to the lives of looked after young people in the school by making sure that they feel included and supported.

Jasmine said, "I wanted to do this because I want to help make a difference in young looked after children's lives. If children come up to the school I want to help the teachers and pupils understand what it might feel like to be looked after so that they will know how to support them and make sure they get the help they need."

She added, "I think it went really well because you could see in their faces that they really were moved by the DVD. It has helped a lot because people have been acting nicer towards me since they heard my story and haven't been so quick to judge, especially in class.

"School has been a lot less stressful since I showed the DVD as I feel people do now really understand. It's good, especially coming up to exams and that.

"I'd like to thank Mr Travis, Mr Jackson and Mr Sim for all their support."

YPOC Group's Creative Journey showcased by Care Inspectors



The work of the YPOC Group has been included in "Our Creative Journey" a report by the Care Inspectorate highlighting the creative work of different groups.

The YPOC Group's part of the report is based on the work they did to produce the DVD, "Don't Judge – We're no different from you".

Mary Morris from the Care Inspectorate said, "We liked this because the young people used lots of creative skills in their campaign – writing the script, acting, telling each other's stories. One young person also wrote the song and the

music and sang the song on the DVD.

"When I came along to meet the YPOC group I found them to be a really enthusiastic group, keen to make things better for other looked after children and young people and doing just that."

The publication is now in the Care Inspectorate's document "Our Creative Journey" and can be seen online at <http://hub.careinspectorate.com/media/603624/our-creative-journey-aug-17-master-combined.pdf>

The Care Inspectorate are the people who make sure that the services provided for children and young people like children's homes, foster care, social work, schools etc are the best they can be to meet the needs of all children.

WINTER WORDSEARCH -

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|------------|------------|-------------|
| FIRESIDE | FREEZING | GLOVES |
| HOLLY | ICE | IVY |
| MISTLETOE | ROBINS | SCARVES |
| SKATING | SLEDGING | SLEIGHBELLS |
| SNOWDROPS | SNOWFLAKES | SNOWMEN |
| WONDERLAND | | |

Please return to Anne Whitecross, Gordon House, Blackhall Road, Inverurie AB51 0EW by end Feb 2018. The winner will be the person with the correct entry pulled out of a hat and will win a £15 voucher.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Age: _____



The lucky winners of the African Animals wordsearch were Andrew, Kierra and Romanie. Congratulations to them and a £15 voucher has been sent out to each of them.

Get in Touch

It's always good to hear your views, if you want to share anything or give your views then please get in touch. Contact: Kate Ramsden or Laura Stewart, Children's Rights Officers
 Mail: It's all free, you can send anything to Freepost, RTLJ-SRCE-KXTH, Gordon House, Inverurie AB51 3WA.

Phone: **FREEPHONE 0800 917 8275**
 Email: kate.ramsden@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
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