SPAGHETTI BOLOGNAISE ON A TUESDAY NIGHT

PRESENTED BY YOUTH MOVEMENT INITIATIVE (YMI)

WHO ARE WE & WHAT DO WE DO?

- WE ARE A GROUP OF YOUNG PEOPLE WITH EXPERIENCES IN OUT OF HOME CARE
- WE ARE COMMITTED TO IMPROVING THE LIVES OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN OOHC AND LEAVING CARE
- WE ARE EMPLOYED BY ST LUKE'S ANGLICARE AS YOUTH ADVISORS AND ADVOCATES

- WE PROVIDE TRAINING AND ADVICE TO OOHC AND DHS WORKERS
- WE ARE WRITING A FUNDING PROPOSAL FOR AN INDEPENDENT YOUTH ADVOCATES PROGRAMME
- WE PROVIDE ADVOCACY ON ISSUES WHICH CONCERN YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE AND LEAVING CARE

WHY THIS DOCUMENT & WHO IS IT FOR?

- TO HIGHLIGHT OUR EXPERIENCES OF THE DHS 'BEST INTEREST ' PLANNING PROCESSES
- TO ADVOCATE FOR CHANGES TO THE WAY CASE PLANNING IS DONE
- THE DOCUMENT WAS WRITTEN FOR :
  - DHS CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES
  - THE COMMISSIONER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
  - OUT OF HOME CARE WORKERS
  - YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE OR WHO HAVE LEFT CARE

OUR EXPERIENCES OF CASE PLAN MEETINGS

- IT DOESN'T TAKE INTO ACCOUNT WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO THE YOUNG PERSON INVOLVED
- THEY DON'T WANT TO HEAR ABOUT OUR LIVES BEFORE WE ENTERED OUT OF HOME CARE
- A HIGH TURNOVER OF PROTECTION WORKERS CREATES A LACK OF TRUST IN YOUNG PEOPLE
- MANY YOUNG PEOPLE FEEL WORTHLESS IN MEETINGS BECAUSE OF THE LEGALISTIC NATURE

IMPROVING THE MEETINGS

- MEETINGS NEED TO BE MORE INCLUSIVE OF YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES
- YOUNG PEOPLE ARE MORE LIKELY TO SPEAK UP IF THEY FEEL COMFORTABLE AND SAFE
- THERE SHOULD BE LEAD-UP MEETINGS TO ENSURE YOUNG PEOPLE KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING
- THERE SHOULD BE FOLLOW-UP TO THE MEETINGS
- THERE SHOULD BE LESS PEOPLE IN THE MEETINGS

ISSUES WITH THE BEST INTEREST PLAN

- THERE IS TOO MUCH 'LEGAL JARGON' AND OBSCURE LANGUAGE
- YOUNG PEOPLE DON'T UNDERSTAND TERMS AND CONCEPTS
- IF THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND THE LANGUAGE YOUNG PEOPLE ARE MORE LIKELY TO CLOSE UP
- THE LEGAL JARGON IS MEANT SOLELY FOR THE WORKERS NOT YOUNG PEOPLE
- FOR SOME YOUNG PEOPLE THE MEETINGS ARE A TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCE

WAYS TO IMPROVE THE PROCESSES

- INCLUDE MORE YOUTH-INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE
- ENSURE YOUNG PEOPLE ATTEND THE MEETINGS
- GIVE YOUNG PEOPLE THE OPTION OF WHETHER THEIR FAMILY IS INVOLVED
- INCLUDE PRACTICAL ISSUES IN THE PLAN
- INCLUDE A SECTION ON PREPARING FOR LEAVING CARE
- DEVELOP AN INDEPENDENT YOUTH ADVOCATES PROGRAM
- IMPLEMENT THE 16 RECOMMENDATIONS IN OUR DOCUMENT

WHY A REVIEW OF THE B.I.P. DOCUMENT

- THE CURRENT PROCESS DOES NOT WORK IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE YOUNG PERSON
- YOUNG PEOPLE DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE 'LEGAL JARGON' AND PROFESSIONAL LANGUAGE
- TO ENCOURAGE DHS TO MAKE REGULAR REVIEWS OF THE DOCUMENT AND THE PROCESSES
- TO MAKE THE DOCUMENT AND THE PROCESSES MORE INCLUSIVE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

WHAT WOULD A YOUTH ADVOCATES PROGRAMME LOOK LIKE?

- IT MUST BE INDEPENDENT OF DHS, OOHC ORGANISATIONS AND THE SYSTEM
- IT SHOULD BE RUN BY YOUNG PEOPLE THAT HAVE BEEN IN OUT OF HOME CARE
- ADVOCATES WOULD BE PROVIDED WITH TRAINING BEFORE COMMENCING
- IT WOULD BE A STATE-WIDE BODY
- IT WOULD AIM TO GIVE YOUNG PEOPLE A VOICE IN BEST INTEREST PLAN MEETINGS

QUESTIONS?

OUR 'SPAGHETTI BOLOGNAISE ON A TUESDAY NIGHT' DOCUMENT IS AVAILABLE ON THE CFECFW WEBSITE AT:

HTTP://WWW.CFECFW.ASN.AU/NEWS/2014/07/SPAGHETTI-BOLOGNAISE-TUESDAY-NIGHT

WE CAN BE CONTACTED AT : MUNDY@STLUKES.ORG.AU OR BY CALLING 54343922