

Total Respect Training

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What is Total Respect training?

- Total Respect is a unique training course to help all those working with children in care comply with children's right to participate in decision making.
- It was developed and is delivered by children and young people with experience of the care system.
- The delivery of Total Respect has attracted both local and national awards including the Pavilion Training Award and TOPSS National Training Accolades.

What is Total Respect training?

- The Total Respect course was originally developed in 2000 by an organisation called Children's Rights Officers and Advocates (CROA), in conjunction with a team of young people (called pioneers for children's rights) who had experience of the care system and the department of health.
- In 2012, following the closure of CROA, the Total Respect Training programme was transferred to Children's Rights Alliance for England (CRAE) which ensures that it continues to be delivered across the UK.

What are the aims of Total Respect?

- Encourage participants to be aware of and challenge the assumptions that are made about young people
- Allow participants to understand the experiences of young people who use their service (get participants to walk in their shoes)
- Gives participants time to think about young people as individuals (not as case/numbers)
- Concentrate on skills needed when working with children who use services (active listening, effective communication, observation, report writing)
- Provide knowledge of Children's Rights and Advocacy

Who is it for?

- Total Respect is a training course for anyone who works with children in care, or makes decisions affecting their lives,
- This includes Social Workers, Foster Carers, Residential Workers, Participation Workers, Independent Reviewing Officers, Team Managers, Senior Managers, Directors and Elected Members (Councillors)

How is Total Respect Delivered?

- Total Respect is led and delivered by care experienced young people
- Total Respect consists of practical activities and few presentations
- Total respect requires all participants to get actively involved
- There are no expert speakers and the language aims to be straight forward and jargon free

Working in partnership with Wolverhampton University

- We were contacted about bringing the voices of young care leavers into the teaching and training of Social Work students
- We met with a group of academics to discuss their needs and how we could support these
- Following further discussions we put together a few sessions of Total Respect Training to sit in the Social Work programme
- So far 3 sessions have been delivered, one of these was just yesterday!

Working in partnership with Wolverhampton University

- We have now delivered 3 x half day sessions with 1st and 2nd year Social Work Students in partnership with Wolverhampton University
- We felt this was a great success as we are able to demonstrate some of the issues Looked after Children may face and also how students can apply this to their current work

Working in partnership with Wolverhampton University

- Students are able to have a wider understanding of difficulties Children in Care may be going through and have a better understanding of how to deal with these matters in a sensitive way
- Students are more likely to be successful in securing a job by having knowledge of Total Respect as it is one of the main things Wolverhampton Looked after Children's services look out for

Student Feedback

- “What a great session , really enjoyed it and it did make me think..... drawing my home, family and pets then swopping wow that was really good.”
- “Having care leavers come in to do a session was really eye opening and a particularly good session, to see things from their perspective rather than a more practical one.”
- “Having visits from service users has been extremely beneficial, to actually hear it from their experiences.”
- “We found the morning insightful and thought provoking”

Academic Feedback

- The preparation coupled with Puja's experience and knowledge paid off as the young people guided the students through a series of thought provoking exercises.
- I commend the young people for their ability to bring to life some of the key issues that impact on children and young people whilst in the care of local authorities and after they have left the care system.

Young People feedback

- We have felt Total Respect training has massively improved workers understanding and knowledge of issues we face whilst being in care and they apply this training to their work which is great!
- Being able to deliver Total Respect training has improved our confidence and Self-Esteem
- I feel happy we are improving the service for all current and future Looked after Children
- Total Respect is great as I get to meet new people and it's fun to participate in!

Questions and Answers



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