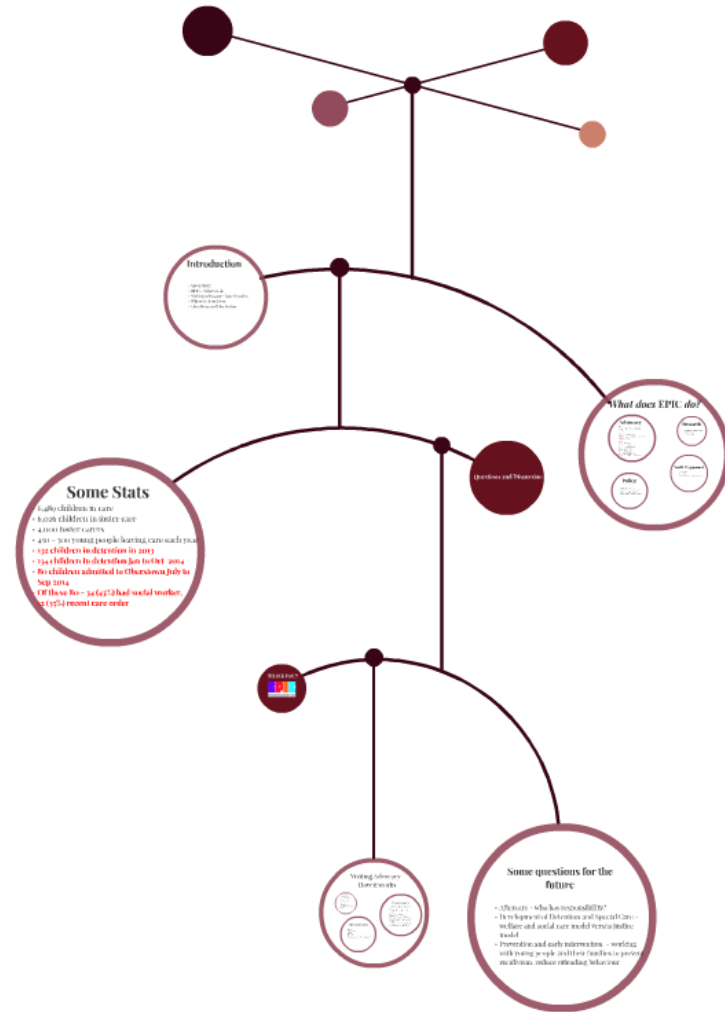




empowering people in care

Advocacy in Action

Jennifer Gargan
IPRT Seminar 11/12/2014

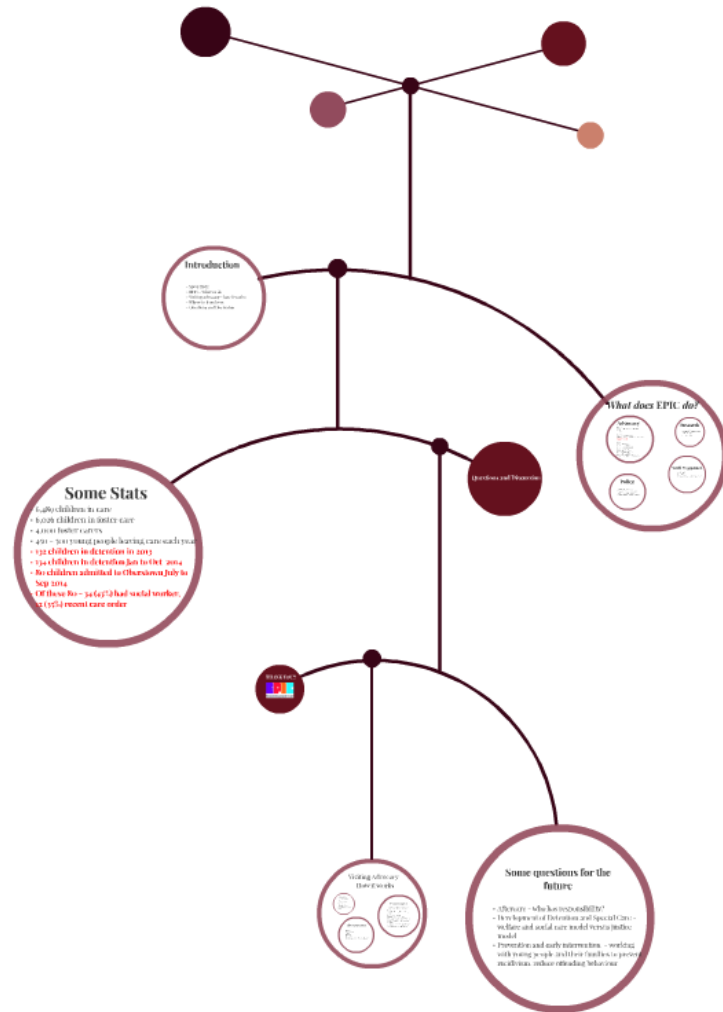




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Jennifer Gargan
IPRT Seminar 11/12/2014



Introduction

- Some Stats
- EPIC - What we do
- Visiting advocacy - how it works
- Where to from here
- Questions and Discussion

Some Stats

- 6,489 children in care
- 6,026 children in foster care
- 4,000 foster carers
- 450 - 500 young people leaving care each year
- **132 children in detention in 2013**
- **134 children in detention Jan to Oct 2014**
- **80 children admitted to Oberstown July to Sep 2014**
- **Of these 80 - 34 (43%) had social worker, 12 (35%) recent care order**

What does EPIC do?

Advocacy

What?
Advocacy, Support, Advice, Information
TAG Fora

Where?
Foster care, residential care
Visiting Advocacy to Special care and Children
Detention Schools

Why?
Access, independent
Not about complaints
Give a voice to young people
Provide information
Raise awareness of rights
Empowerment, confidence
Change culture and practice
Transparency, adherence to standards

Research

- Informed by young people
- Evidence base
- Data collection

Youth Engagement

- Youth Board
- Social Media
- Engaged with 350+ young people in 2014

Policy

- Informed by young people
- Lobbying and campaigning - eg
Aftercare on a statutory basis
- Impact on policy, practice, legislation

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Youth Engagement

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Visiting Advocacy

How it works

Visiting Advocacy Service Oberstown

- History
- SIA and protocol in place
- 1 per month
- 1 Advocacy Officers
- 4 Units
- Liaison person in each Unit
- 5% 2017 advocacy cases in Detention schools

How it works

- Consistent, build relationship and trust
- Young person led, choice to engage or not
- Provide information
- Discuss issues, agree plan
- Follow up between monthly visits as required and/or at young person's request
- Advocacy service can continue after young person leaves Oberstown

Advocacy Issues

Placement
Access to services
Complaint
Education
Family Contact
No Social Worker/ contact with social worker

Visiting Advocacy Service Oberstown

- History
- SLA and protocol in place
- 1 per month
- 3 Advocacy Officers
- 4 Units
- Liaison person in each Unit
- 5% 2013 advocacy cases in Detention schools

How it works

- Consistent, build relationship and trust
- Young person led, choice to engage or not
- Provide information
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Advocacy Issues

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Some questions for the future

- Aftercare - who has responsibility?
- Development of Detention and Special Care - welfare and social care model versus justice model
- Prevention and early intervention - working with young people and their families to prevent recidivism, reduce offending behaviour



Questions and Discussion

THANK YOU!!



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