



Bristol Men in Early Years Network Meeting

10.01.2017

Guest Speaker: Yuwei Xu

Planned Agenda

Time Item

2.30 Welcomes and introductions

2.45 Yuwei Xu - 'Rethinking Men's Participation in Early Years Education and Care: Cross-cultural Reflections from Scotland, Hong Kong, and Mainland China'?

4.00 Networking break

4.15 General network updates, Trip to Doncaster feedback, upcoming Bradford conference, network restructuring, assembly report

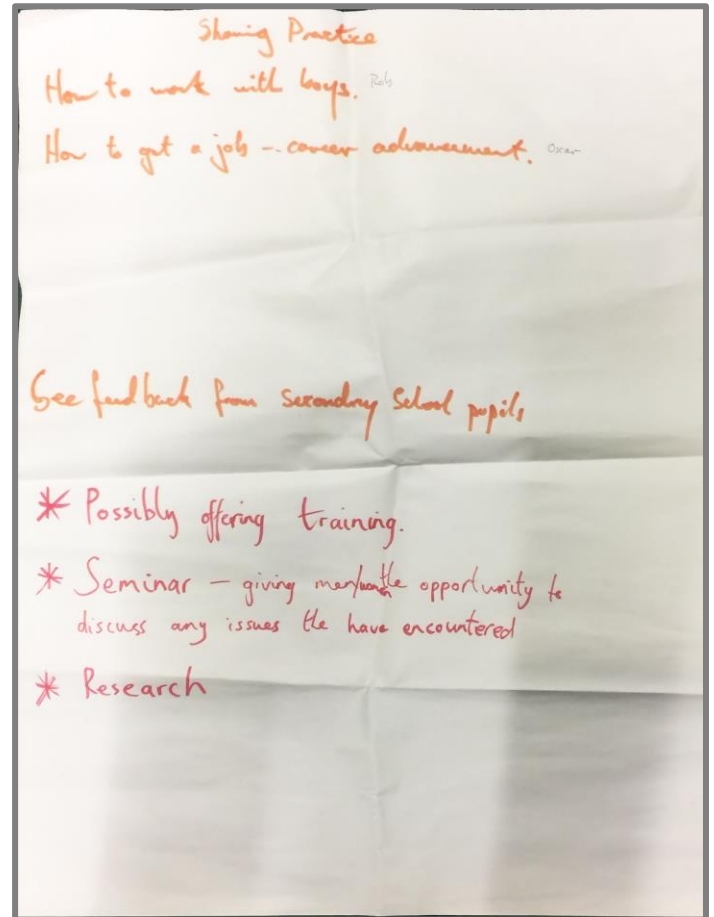
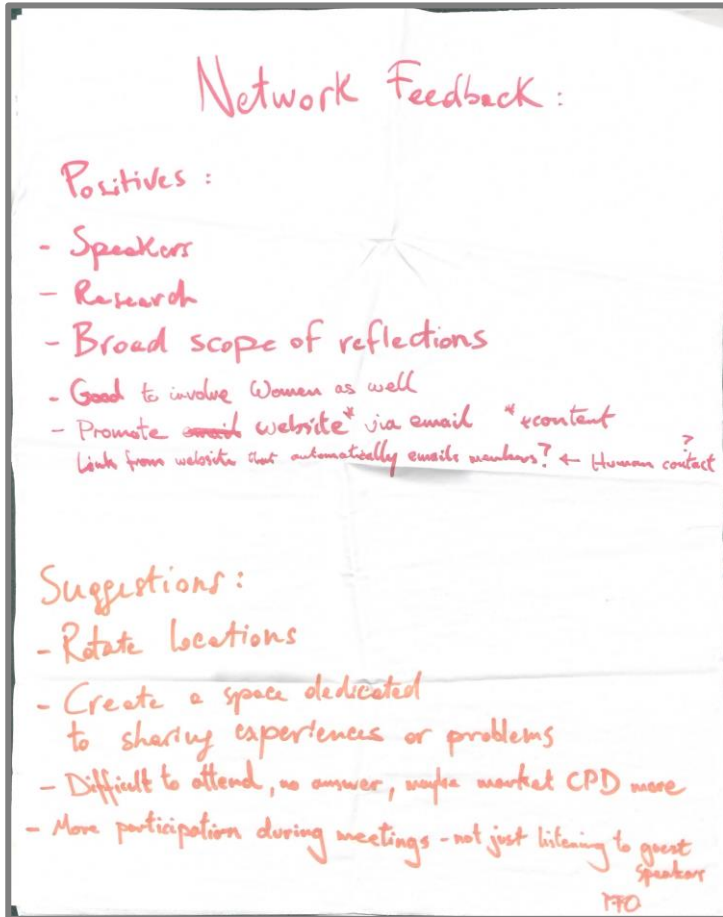
4.30 Gender promotion and network feedback workshop

4.50 > future meeting agendas and any other business

Report/Minutes

- **Yuwei Xu** delivered a session around men's participation in ECEC. He discussed, through his cross-cultural research, both the benefits and implications of reinforcing hegemonic masculinity. Yuwei further explored his qualitative findings, comparing Scottish practices to those of China.
- Following the break, Jay, Craig and Shad fed back general network updates to the group. Craig and Shad reported back from their trip to the 10th Annual Early Years conference in Doncaster, late last year. **A full report is now available online.**
- **Jay and Shad delivered their assembly**, 'The Importance of Good Quality Early Years Education' to Year 9s at Fairfield Secondary school in December. Initial feedback was varied, with lots of good feedback and suggestions for an even better session. They look forward to delivering a similar assembly to the Year 10 children over the coming months.
- **The network is in the process of becoming a Community Interest Company**, we anticipate this to be completed shortly. This will allow us to apply for funding and grants to allow us to continue working towards our goals.
- **Craig and Shad recorded our first network podcast featuring Yuwei** earlier today, this will be available online shortly.
- **There will be a national Men in Early Years Conference on Tuesday 18th July in Bradford this year.** Jay, Shad and Craig will be running a workshop around how to start up your own local network, similar to Southampton last year. Shad will email out details to the network as soon as they become available.
- **Jay introduced the workshop element of this meeting**, Deborah Price, our previous guest speaker, had been in touch asking us to come up with ideas of positive gender promotion and negative experiences around being a male practitioner too. As well as this,

the network would like feedback on how what we are doing well and how we can improve to better serve the needs of the people who engage with the network. **Full images available on request:**





Problems with/for M/P

- * Female conservatism
↳ colleagues thinking men should not work in EY.
- * Some parents suggest they are less comfortable.
↳ 1 parent refused to leave their child.
- * Staff Leadership asked for a member of staff to cut their hair because they didn't like it on men.

Double-take

- One child who is very wary
- Why would a man want to work with children?
- Nappie changing - support from management/policies.
- +ve feedback from parents
- accusations / mostly joking sometimes serious.

Wearing different coloured ties/clothing. Wearing Pink or reds aren't normally seen in this color or more of a girls. Wearing wigs and dressing up. Singing in class and groups.

HomeComer and trying to include the boys in roleplay as Male:
Can stay at home and be Carers.

Having a trial where only girls use bikes one day and boys the next and boys normally on bikes. Children and staff question why only genders on certain days.

- Intentionally disobey gender stereotypes
- Group discussion - asking "why" to stereotypes.
- Encourage to partake in typically 'manly' things like Forest School/Rough Play etc...
- This network - supported continuing/staying in early years.
- Woodwork
- Female gardeners
- Support of other men.



- Shad announced details of our next network meeting, to be held Tuesday 25th April 2017, our guest speaker will be Dr. Simon Brownhill.

Meeting end.

