

Feedback on Night Train from Cheshire County Council Social Work Training Event

I thought the residential worker's part was played absolutely brilliantly because it showed that he was stuck to do his duty, as filling forms in, making sure everything was right and not having a lot of time for the young people and he really was stuck. You could tell he'd got a bit of thought for them but his tough was for his job.

I thought that (Night Train) was amazing. It addressed lots of issues and it reminded me of lots of different people that I've worked with. It was really powerful, very moving.

I was very impressed by the performance, not just by the actors but by the writing behind it. What I liked about it: it wasn't like going into Tesco and getting the chicken breast which you don't see all the nasty bits. It wasn't all wrapped in cotton wool. It was dead straight. I've been doing this for 20 years and it's as it is and I respect that greatly. I think the more people see it the better.

I enjoyed it. Very emotional. I like how all the anger came out, how they really felt. Just like the young people I work with at the moment.

I thought it was very good. I thought it was very realistic. I thought the attitude of the staff was more realistic, uncomfortably realistic. I just thought it was really good.

I thought it was extremely realistic of the situations that develop. I just hope that from it we can all learn how best to deal with these sensitive situations.

I realised when I was watching it that this has been quite closely and cleverly researched because quite obviously it was modelled on situations that do develop in the care system and I'm aware that it is very similar to the difficulties that staff encounter in the care environment and likewise, visa-versa how it is for the young people involved.

I thought it was really good. I think it obviously reflected lots of young people's views and you could really see that in the way they put the performances over. It gave me a lot to think about in my job as a social worker, particularly trying to get to know the children a lot better because I don't think we always have the opportunity as social workers to do that.

I thought it was very emotional. The young people we took last night, it had a real impact on them. They felt that you'd really got their views across. It was like you were speaking on behalf of them. They found it really useful and it made them think about a lot of issues and situations they'd put themselves in following discussions we had after it. A couple of them picked up on the

relationship with the older man and were quite open saying they'd found themselves in similar situations. These are very young girls. So, that was a big thing for us that maybe we'd not been able to get them to open up and discuss that previously and they could see a different side to the effects of being in that sort of relationship.

The only thing that struck me really strongly was that there's no shield for some of the children from the other children's stresses in that sort of setting. You're almost expected to behave as if you're part of a family and it's acceptable to have everyone's stresses but because they're all so huge I think it's very hard for the children to cope with all that on top of their own.

I really enjoyed it and I thought it was a really good way of learning, having a different focus was the most important thing for me, having the theatre, that drama was a really good way of learning....

Absolutely fantastic training opportunity. Brilliant to see looked after young people contributing to how the service develops in relation to children at risk. It's been just great, absolutely amazing.

I think the thing for me that was most powerful was actually watching the actors and actresses who were portraying residential care and how it actually did reflect the lives of children and staff who are involved in residential care and that's the thing I'll take away is that it is a difficult environment for staff and children to live in and how do we make it easier for them within Cheshire really? That's the thing for me... The fact that's it's all right to be emotional in the workplace because I nearly cried when I watched it.