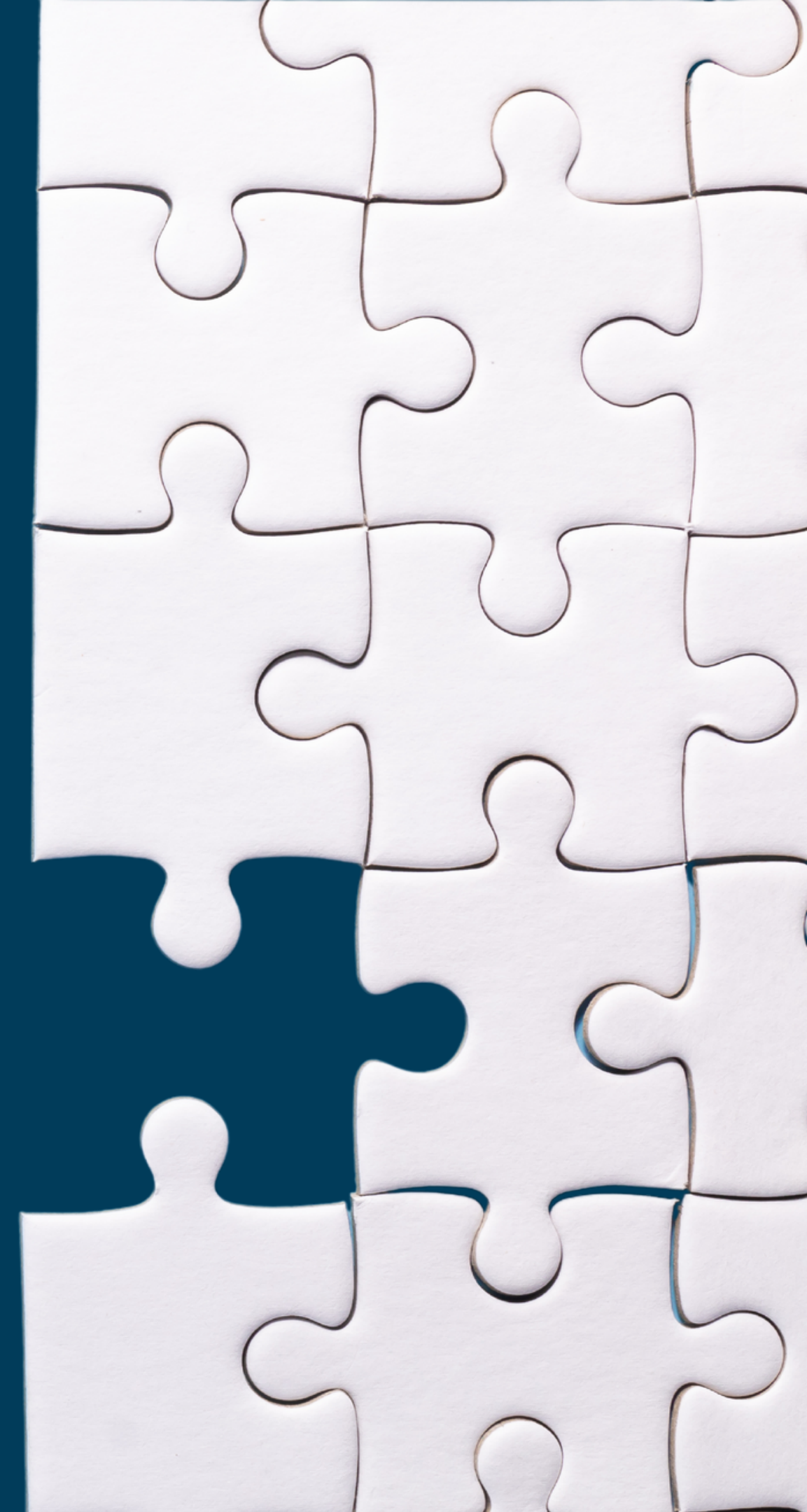




Youth Action Groups

An Introductory Course

Session 3





Aim:

To develop an understanding of the importance of measuring impact and reporting safeguarding matters while protecting the collective planning and cohesive dynamic of the group

OBJECTIVES

- 1** To introduce the need to monitor outcomes and to report on safeguarding issues as part of a YAG
- 2** To convey the potential conflict between the need to report and monitor outcomes and the negative impact that this can have on the cohesive dynamic of the group.
- 3** To learn techniques that allow for the running of YAGs which allow for outcomes to be measured and safeguarding principles to be met while also protecting the dynamics of the group.



Imagine having a serious case review meeting with a group of senior managers within the Local Authority. A meeting also attended by the police by which they shared with you that one of their colleagues had to knock on the door of the parents of a child who had tragically lost their life due to a knife incident. Well this can be the every day reality of a Youth Service Manger. This is why they place safeguarding and the safety of young people at the centre of what they do.

YAGs can be vital to maintaining community safety and although they are not the primary function of a YAG they are certainly important.



OBJECTIVE 1:

The importance of safeguarding and monitoring

Objective 1:

The impact of reporting on the cohesive dynamics of the group

The YAG tends to be based on practical planning. It is impossible to 'do planning' and 'monitor outcomes' simultaneously and therefore an alternative mechanism for planning without disrupting the dynamics of the group is useful



Activity 1



Scenario A. Imagine or role-play a YAG meeting by which you are enforced to report on outcomes and safeguarding issues

- How does this make you/ the other partners feel. How does this impact their interest in sharing feedback on their delivery? How does this impact the planning of activities collectively?

Scenario B. Imagine or role-play a YAG by which you allow the group to freely feedback on their delivery with no obligation to report.

- How does this make partners feel? How does this impact their motivation in sharing feedback on their delivery? Improved or inhibited?



Objective 2:

To convey the potential conflict between the need to report and monitor outcomes and the negative impact that this can have on the collective planning and democratic principles of the group

Process OR Outcome? – or follow the process to get more outcomes?



Can you think of a way to allow for the monitoring of outcomes and reporting of safeguarding matters whilst also maintaining the planning and reflection aspect of the group?

What are the benefits of keeping conversation open, democratic and focussed on delivery and planning?



Interviewee: “When a child comes from school or is a NEET young person and don’t even go to school, they don’t want to feel like they’re in school, they don’t want a professional whose read 70 books, and if they do this (x) then the child will respond in this way (y) and therefore they need to do this (z) and then this will be the result... would you rather someone walk up to you with a clip board and say right, how are you feeling tonight, are you angry, have you taken your Ritalin, how’s your problems at home? Do you smoke cannabis? Ok I want you to write this form out for me umm and tell me what you think about it, or would you rather somebody come in, sit down beside you and be like “you ok? what you been up to for the week?” and do it that way, do you get me?”

Process OR Outcome?

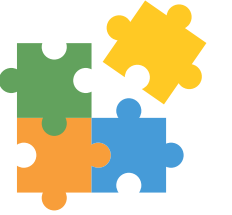
Interviewer: ok and it kind of does the same thing, doing it that way does it?



Interviewee: *It does the same thing and more, you have to have a good relationship with the young people, you know you can't be acting like professionals to be honest, like, obviously know your stuff in your head, but you can't approach them with a clip board, because that straight away switches them off, as soon as you approach them with a clip board, bam you've lost them, do you get me, so I think umm, getting to know them, yea and like letting them get comfortable with you not only that you get comfortable with them and eventually you will get to that point, and then that person will be a lot better and more open with you.*

Process OR Outcome?

This quotation, although relating to youth work and not YAGs demonstrates the value of building rapport on the quality of relationships. In the same respect, the benefits of YAGs can come from focussing on the process. And in turn, more outcomes can be achieved this way...



Unobtrusive monitoring

As a group think of ways in which you could hold meetings which allow monitoring to take place while avoiding disruption to conversations around planning and delivery.

- Can you think of any suggestions?...

You could...

- In addition to a minute taker, you could have a 'safeguarding' minute taker who reports the issues that come up... or simply have space on a promforma to record such matters

Will this allow for conversation to flow naturally? How do these monitoring processes work? Are they more or less intrusive than simply requesting the group to feedback on issues?

**Objective 3:
To teach methods of running a YAG which allows for safeguarding to be reported while also protecting the core dynamics of the group**



Reflective Learning



Discussion: What are the core things you have learned through this course? Do you feel better equipped to be a partner of or to lead a YAG?

During the sessions



We covered

The key functions of a YAG.

Understood what a YAG is, but also importantly, what a YAG should not be expected to be.

We discussed

The different types of partners that may attend YAGs both in terms of their role but also their position - and considered these as part of a network



Thought about

How the potential of a YAG network can be achieved by creating a space where partners are valued as equals and have equal time and rights to raise issues

How to protect these core benefits and values of YAGs while also maintaining important monitoring and safeguarding priorities of such groups



Any questions?



THANK YOU

END OF SESSION 3