



INVESTING IN CHILDREN

Membership Evaluation

Date May 2006

PROJECT NAME Denton Young People's Project

PROJECT LOCATION Church of the Holy Spirit
Dunblane Crescent
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE5 2BE

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ASSESSOR Rob Johnson

SUMMARY OF EVALUATION

Sector Youth Provision
Ages 13-19 years
Area North
Ward Denton

Number of beneficiaries



Evaluation for Investing in Children membership:

Denton Young People's Project

For the purpose of this evaluation for Investing in Children membership I had the pleasure of meeting Ian Amanda, Natalie, Michael and Lewis.

Denton Young People's Project (DYPP) is situated in the west end of Newcastle and has been in operation for 4 years. The project receives funding from a variety of sources, the main sources of funding coming from Newcastle City Council (NRF) the Northern Rock Foundation and the Church Urban Fund Body.

The project programme focuses on supporting young people through leisure and sporting activities, and the overall focus, as stated in the constitution is:

“To advance the education of young people especially but not exclusively through leisure activities” (Denton Young People's Project Constitution)

The project focuses a lot of its energy and commitment to young people through detached youth work and outreach work, as a means of developing relationships with children and young people. The project operates:-

- A detached programme
- School holiday activity programme
- Saturday Art club
- Outreach education programme
- Health living

Opportunities for Dialogue

Drop in Centre

The project operates a drop in session from 3pm until 5pm Monday to Friday where young people can access staff to discuss different issues that the young people of the area feel are important to them.

Health Consultation

Carl Box, from Community Action Health consulted with some young who access DDYP to find out what they think about health. The young people were asked a number of questions such as, “What do you do to keep fit” and other questions, such as “What barriers to a healthy lifestyle exist in your local community”? This proved to be an efficient and useful means of allowing the young people to enter into dialogue with the project about health and provide an opportunity of projects around these issues.

Dialogue and Change at Denton Young People's Project

Management Committee

Ian is a young person who has accessed the project over the last 4 years and is now a member of the management committee. Ian does not have a vote on the

management committee but is an active member and has influenced decisions the committee makes regarding the project. Ian explained, "***There was a debate about the C-card training being introduced to the project and if it should be. I explained the importance of this being put in place for young people around here***" Ian went on to add "***The management committee decided to go for the C-card scheme in the project***". The management committee now has the perspective of a young person who uses the project and this has changed how the committee views such issues as C-card training. This is a positive approach by the committee to involve young people in the participation of the project and the decision making process and would be most encouraging to see this developed further over the next 12 months when the membership comes up for re-evaluation.

Garden Project

The local Vicar has donated a piece of land to the project. Amanda told me "***We have designed and come up with an idea of a vegetable patch***". Some of the young people are going to grow the vegetables and then going to cook them for some of elderly members of the community at the lunch club in the local church.

GCSE School Support

The support is structured to allow changes based on what is important to the young people. Amanda explained, "***I asked my school and Simon (Community Development Worker) if they would support my GCSE PE curriculum***" Amanda is now doing canoeing as part of her GCSE course work at the DYYP, because the project made changes to the programme activities to meet her needs

Diving Course

Ian explained "***Deano asked to do a diving course***", the project is now offering a diving course programme which is what young people want from the project.

Canoeing Expedition

An Easter residential has been set up because some young people have developed a keen interest in canoeing because of past activities at the project, and have wanted this to continue. Michael told me "***How can they do things without talking to us and listening to what we want***". This is the case with the Canoeing expedition.

Holiday Activity Programme

Ideas for these sessions were generated through the direct involvement of the young people by meeting with staff to plan the holiday programme and other activities that take place at the project.

The activities the young people asked for were:- Cinema trips, fishing, mountain biking, canoeing, climbing, ice skating ten-pin bowling, outdoor swimming and horse riding. Natalie explained "***We get listened to and do most things we want to do***"

Denton Young People's Project gives many opportunities for young people to have a direct impact on the programme they offer. The relationship between the young people and staff is very encouraging to see and the participation within the project allows the young people to feel valued and part of the project, and because of these reasons I would like to recommend Denton Young Peoples Project receives Investing in Children Membership.

This report has been read and agreed by the following young people Ian, Dean, Natalie and Michael.

Rob Johnson
Project Worker
Investing in Children

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