



INVESTING IN CHILDREN

Membership Evaluation

Date March 2006

PROJECT NAME The Holland Centre

PROJECT LOCATION Beech Hill Primary School, Linhope Road
Newcastle upon Tyne NE5 2LW

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SUMMARY OF EVALUATION

Sector School
Ages 5-12 years
Area North
Ward Denton

Number of beneficiaries



investing in children

Evaluation for Investing in Children membership:

Holland Centre

For the purpose of this evaluation I met with Dayna, Louise, Connor and Kevin.

The Holland Centre is an inclusion unit sited in the grounds of Beech Hill Primary School; it offers short term support for children with behaviour difficulties. The support is offered on a term time basis with the children returning to mainstream school after the initial support has been offered.

The Centre exists as the result of partnership funding between All Saints College, Beech Hill Primary, Farne Primary, Simonside Primary and Cheviot Primary schools. All the schools collaborated together to use BiP funding to develop an inclusive method approach to keep children in school instead of excluding them. The project works alongside children who access the Centre to help develop different approaches to understand their behaviour so that the children can understand their own behaviour, improve and consequentially reduce behaviour in school.

The environment at the Holland Centre is very much based on the individual needs of the young people who access the Centre for support.

There has been an increase in changes made to the Centre in how it operates and offers support to children since its opening, which has been down to the enthusiastic staff who have listened to the young people and who have supported and developed ideas and strategies based on the children's ideas.

Dialogue and Change

Self Referral Box

A referral box has been introduced to the Centre based on the ideas of the children who have used the Centre. The children had concerns regarding the site and the group spoke about how sometimes it can be difficult to access because of its location.

The young people spoke to me, explaining why the self referral box had been introduced and the benefits this has brought to the young people.

Louise told me, **"It's much better now, we can put things in the box about how we are feeling and Mrs Blight will check the box and come and find us"**.

This change has allowed the children confidentiality to put down how they feel on any specific day, knowing that Mrs Blight will come and find them and offer some guidance and support.

Self Referral to the Centre

Dayna told me about how she is now accessing the Centre on her own when she feels she needs to speak with Mrs Blight **“I used to come to the Centre, but I am now back in school”** She went on to add **“but I still wanted to come and see Mrs Blight at the Centre about things that are happening in my life”**.

Dayna now attends the Centre for support when she wants to. This change has allowed other children who have accessed the Centre in the past to be given the option to access the support from the Centre, even when the initial support has ended.

Peer support

Good role models are used to encourage appropriate behaviour in school and within the wider community.

Connor explained, **“I chose my friends to help my behaviour”**

The Centre has introduced this based on the method of children selecting the roles models to help support their behaviour, which has encouraged some young children to become peer mentors after being peer-mentored.

Connor also told me, **“I decided to change one of my friends because he was not behaving in school”**

Kevin told me **“We all meet up every Friday drink tea and eat biscuits and talk about the week and ways to help Conner”**

Throughout the dialogue I had with these young people, about how the Holland Centre operates and involves young people, it was evident that the ethos of the Centre moves in the direction that the young people want to go in.

I would like to recommend that the Holland Centre receives Investing In Children membership because of the approaches it is using , in that young people are at the heart of their own behaviour support , and the way it encourages young people to take a lead on which methods are used at the Centre.

This evaluation has been read and approved by the following young people, Dayna, Connor, Kevin and Louise. I would like to finish by saying thanks to all the young people and staff at the Holland Centre for their time and commitment to the evaluation process for Investing in Children Membership.

**Rob Johnson
Project Worker
Investing in Children**

March 2006