



## **INVESTING IN CHILDREN**

### **Membership Evaluation**

**Date** March 2006

**PROJECT NAME** Linking School and Home Project

**PROJECT LOCATION** Byker Primary School  
Commercial Road  
Byker  
Newcastle upon Tyne NE6 2AT

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**ASSESSOR** Rob Johnson

### **SUMMARY OF EVALUATION**

**Sector** Education  
**Ages** 4-11 years  
**Area** East  
**Ward** Byker

**Number of beneficiaries**



investing in children

## Evaluation for Investing in Children membership:

### **Linking School and Home Project**

For purpose of evaluation I met with Scott, Christopher, Liam, Ryan, Gibrial, Ronnie, Rees and Jonathan.

The project was set up in 2002 as a means of supporting children who showed challenging behaviour at school which had in the past resulted in children being excluded. Part of the project is also to support the family as a whole so that the behaviour may also improve at home.

The support seems to be tailor-made to the individual child and the needs of the family rather than the family being left in isolation to cope alone. Exclusions were generally happening over a lunch time period at Byker Primary School, so the project was set up over a lunch time period to support different children and for the parents to be encouraged to be supportive of the project, to reduce behaviour incidents at home.

Mrs Swinburn, the coordinator of the project, explained that at the peak of the exclusions the figure was as high as 55 young people in one school year. The school has developed a project within the school based on an inclusive method whereby children of the school are being supported with their behaviour.

The school have taken the approach to be much more comprehensive in supporting the children rather than excluding the young people for their inappropriate behaviour, and the school should be praised for this. The young people who access the support are referred to by members of staff from school and receive a targeted amount of support from the project.

### **Dialogue and change**

One of the major changes as a result of the young people and staff talking about their behaviour is a self referral method, which has been introduced based on the ideas of what the young people want from the project.

Steven explained “**Sometimes I come in here because I want to talk about my day**” Steven went on to tell me “**I come in here sometimes because I have been silly and want to talk about it**”

Young people can now access the support based on their needs rather than being referred to by a member of staff of the school.

### **Behaviour and Strategies**

This is an ongoing and ever evolving process based on what the young people decide to talk about and behaviour strategies are put in place based on the individual needs of the children.

Ryan explained “**We talk about our behaviour and try to make it better**”. Scott told me “**We do get listened to**” he went on to explain “**I have been coming in**

**here for a month and my behaviour has been getting better because I am doing things I like “**

### **Peer Lead Programme**

The project encourages the young people to take a lead on improving things for themselves. This resulted in change based on how young people supported one another.

This behaviour strategy has been introduced based on changes occurring through dialogue with the children who access the project. This has allowed the young people to support other young children who are accessing the project for the very first time.

Peer lead support can be a very positive way to improve things with young people and it seems to be enjoyed by some of the children who access the project. Liam told me **“Sometimes I have spoken with Gibrial about how he can be better in school”**.

This change in the project support is at an early stage in development but I would suggest the project looks at ways they can develop this further over the next year because it seems a very positive method which could be used to support the children who access the project, based on the children looking at approaches to support one another.

I would like to recommend that the Linking Schools and Home Project receives Investing in Children membership for the changes that are occurring based on the ideas and needs of young children who are accessing the project for support, the inclusive methods and look to develop the approaches further over the next year.

This report has been read and approved by the following young people: Michael, Steven, Mathew, Ryan, Charlie, Melissa, Shannon, Kloe, Tabita, and Chloe. I would like to finish by saying thank you to all the young people and staff at the project for the support when carrying out the evaluation.

**Rob Johnson  
Project Worker  
Investing in children**

**March 2006**