



## **INVESTING IN CHILDREN**

### **Membership Evaluation**

**Date** March 2006

**PROJECT NAME** Northbourne Street Youth Initiative

**PROJECT LOCATION** 105 St James Street  
Elswick  
Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 7RP

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**ASSESSOR** Rob Johnson

### **SUMMARY OF EVALUATION**

**Sector** Youth Provision  
**Ages** 12-19 years  
**Area** West  
**Ward** Elswick

**Number of beneficiaries**



investing in children

## **Evaluation for Investing in Children membership:**

### **Northbourne Street Youth Initiative Elswick**

For the purpose of this evaluation I had the pleasure of meeting David, Jacqueline, Vanessa, Sarah, Mark, Neil, Amy and Craig who attend the youth project.

Northbourne Street Youth Initiative is situated in the West End of Newcastle at 105 St James Street Elswick. The project provides a mixture of activities and projects for the young people of Elswick.

The environment is very informal, with some staff very committed and enthusiastic in providing a framework of activities and project work based on what the young people want. They develop a programme based on the dialogue which takes place in the project. The young people and staff have a sound and effective relationship which has influenced the programme to change and be developed by the young people who use the service.

The project operates a junior session and a senior session Monday to Friday. The two sessions are funded through two different funding bodies which are: - The Supporting Communities part of Home Group which funds the junior session and the Neighbourhood Support Fund (NSF) which funds the senior sessions.

The junior session runs from 4pm until 6pm and the senior runs from 6.30pm until 8.30pm Monday to Friday. The project programme at the time they applied for Investing in Children membership was as follows.

	Junior Session	Senior Session
Monday	Team Games	Decks, Pool, IT
Tuesday	Arts and Crafts	To be decided by Young People
Wednesday	Group Activity (IWD)	Fitness Class
Thursday	Adventure Service Challenge Award	13- 16 DJ tutorial session (change)
Friday	DVD or Karaoke (Change)	Kayaking

### **Opportunities for Dialogue**

#### **Comment Book**

Vanessa told me "**we write things down in the book and then Gill will read then and get back to use**". These are some of the recent comments that have all been put in the book.

**"Gill I think we should do more games and if you could make some games up. Ones that are funny and some that are really attractive"**.

**"The club's great but more things please "**.

**"Can we have a football team?"**

The comment book encourages young people to write things down and is a method some young people use to express what they want to do or discuss about the project.

### **Voting on trips**

Jacqueline explained how this works "**Gillian asks where the young people want to go, then a list is put together by Gillian and then we vote on it**".

### **Wickids**

These are a group of young people who access the junior session who have been working on different issues at the project, including community issues that have concerned them such as the boarding up of houses, the graffiti on them and their ideas on the regeneration of the community. Sarah explained, "**we came up with the name of our group and work on different issues that are important to us**".

### **Dialogue and change**

#### **DJ lessons and decks**

Mark told me "**we all enjoy mixing and decided this is what we wanted to do**". Because of what the young people wanted the senior session has been changed to meet the needs of what some young people want to do.

There has also been an extra session introduced to the project for other young people who have access. Some young people want to learn how to mix but were not confident enough to mix and learn on a Monday night, so a DJ tutorial session has been introduced on a Thursday evening. Mark also went on to tell me we, "**we now have a board to put your name on so every one gets a go on the decks**". This is a change to the project plan, based on what young people have been asking for.

There are also some young people writing their own music and mixing at sound rooms in Gateshead in the last six months. The project has supported what the young people wanted to do and based a specific piece of project work on what they wanted. Because of this the young people seem to enjoy their time at Northbourne Street Youth Initiative.

#### **Management Committee**

David told me, "**I am now part of the management committee and am doing a course to understand the role of a management committee**". This is a positive step by the project to encourage and make opportunities for young people to have a voice on the management committee. David also explained "**I**

***have been coming here for 4 years and I am now starting to get more involved”.***

David is a young person who has come up through the project and seems committed to developing his role on the management committee and is getting support from the project to do this. This is due to the changes the project has made to develop the capacity and opportunity for David to get involved.

I would recommend that David be encouraged to develop his role with other young people who access the project, so that their views can be directed to the management, on such issues as the regeneration of the local community and other issues that are important to them.

### **Christmas play**

Sarah explained ***“we wanted to do a play at Christmas, we wrote it and then got our parents to come and watch use “***. Again the staff supported the ideas of the young people by listening to them and them helping them to deliver the play.

Northbourne Street Youth Initiative encourages young people to have a voice by listening to the views and ideas of young people and making changes to the programme. The project give some young people the opportunity to influence the running of the project through a variety of methods and approaches and should be praised for the way they are trying to develop the project. Because of these reasons I would like to recommend that Northbourne Street Youth Initiative receives Investing in Children membership. I look forward to seeing how the project develops over the next year and the impact the young people can have with their views and ideas of how the local community should be regenerated during the upcoming months.

I would like to finish by saying thanks to all the young people and staff who supported me with assessing the project for Investing in Children Membership.

This report has been read and approved by the following young people Amy, Mark David and Jacqueline.

**Rob Johnson  
Project Worker  
Investing in Children**

**March 2006**