



## Re- Evaluation for Investing in Children membership:

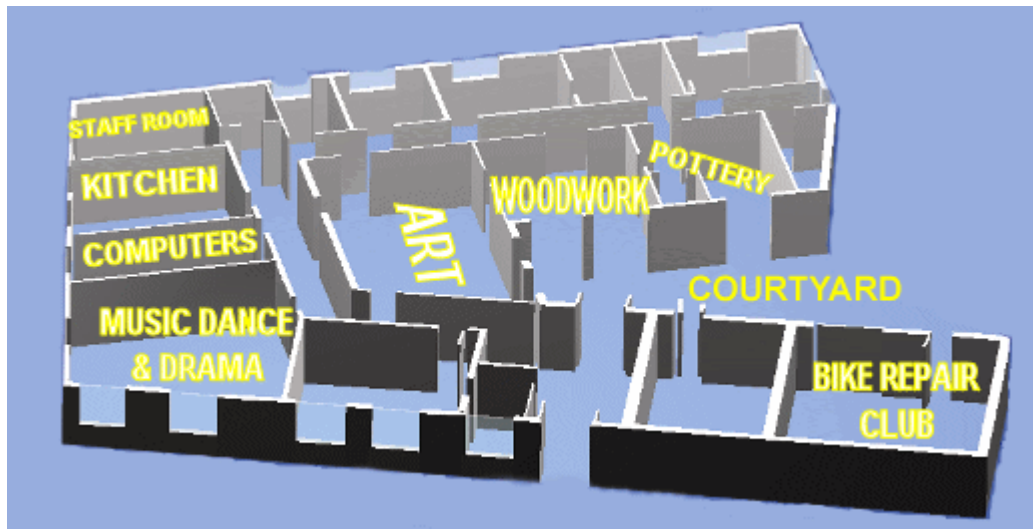
### Kids Kabin

Following on from my last evaluation Kids Kabin, still provides a space for children and young people from Walker with an opportunity to take part in creative art and other activities. Some things have changed since last year. Will Benson has returned from his travels to his post of Project Manager. Tracey continues to teach art and support Will in his role, as well as the rest of the team.

The format for the sessions has also changed. The junior sessions still operate but the senior sessions have changed into volunteer training.

**Evidence of dialogue and change** is provided for this evaluation by the young volunteers. When we, Zoe, A student on placement with Investing in Children and I, arrived at Kids Kabin on 6<sup>th</sup> March we were shown around the project by Shauna and Hazel, two of the senior volunteers. They were proud to show us all of the rooms in the Kids Kabin that were available to the young people, and all of the resources; as well as all their artwork and creations.

This diagram is found on the website [www.kidskabin.org.uk](http://www.kidskabin.org.uk).



**Music Room** – Shauna told us of the activities in the music and drama room. Some of the young people asked for dancing sessions and cheerleading training.

- ❖ *The dancing sessions were taking place on our visit.* The girls Donna, Cali, Sarah, Cheryl and Shauna were learning a new routine which they hope to perform in a variety show in Walker. On our second visit Nicole, and Jamie-Leigh were also taking part in the dancing.
- ❖ *The cheerleading sessions are to start by the end of March.* All of the girls are excited about the sessions, they are learning how to teach other young people.

**ICT** – The young people were in the ICT room with Gerry. The young people can access the internet, create calendars, print t-shirts and make posters. The night I visited most of the children chose to design their own t-shirts. Kyla, Reece and a few others cut and paste transfers and ironed them on to the T-Shirts.

**Cookery** – Hazel told us that the senior volunteers plan cooking sessions for the junior group. Hazel used her time to research her recipe for the next junior cookery session. Hazel decided to make chocolate chip cookies. Hazel designed her recipe card in the IT room. Please see copy attached.

On my second visit to check out my evaluation report Ben, Neil, Georgia and Morgan were making bread. Ben gave me the full run down of what was involved in baking bread as he ate his way through a long snake bread bun that he had made. *The young people also told me that they always make some to share with the rest of the children and young people involved in the sessions.*

**Art** – The art room was not being used on the evening of my first visit. The young people were busy doing other things. The art room was still highly decorated and full of the art created by the children and the young people from the Kids Kabin. On my second visit it was full, the group were creating mosaic picture frames.

**Pottery** - Sam was very busy using clay to create his very own masterpiece. The pottery room was also full of young people's designs, plaques, plates, pots, vases etc. On my second visit Kyla and her Mam were in the pottery room, Kyla's Mam is hoping to bring some of the people she works with so had come to try making something herself.

**Woodwork** – This room was very noisy as the young people chopped and sawed wood to make their chairs, bird boxes, tables etc.

Here is a direct quote from the website:

**'Typical produce from the woodwork room includes dvd/video shelves, money boxes, toys and wooden mosaics. We also explore elements of woodcarving such as lettering and three-dimensional sculpture. The children usually work individually, or in pairs, on projects of their own choosing. However, we sometimes encourage teamwork by setting group activities. Throughout the session, the project worker and volunteers aim to facilitate personal expression and maintain a safe working environment.'**

**The Bike Shed** – *Is a new development at Kids Kabin as requested by the young people. The young people are being taught bike mechanics, learning to maintain their bikes, repair their bikes and keep them in good working order. Hazel said that her brother Josh and her twin Lindsay enjoyed doing the bike course.*

Another quote:

**'History of Bike Club!**

**'Help, I've got a house full of bikes!' In 1999 the father of one member of Kids kabin came to us and said just that. So we worked together to set up a bike repair club and with two volunteers from the University we soon had a regular repair session running. When we moved into the new building, we turned a previous storage shed into a specialist bike repair workshop.'**

The bike shed is accessed via the quadrangle, (the outdoors in the middle of the Kids Kabin.) Hazel and Shauna told me that in the summer they help plant bulbs, they said "we plant lots of plants."

***All of the sessions are at the request of the young people including the bike mechanics and the dancing.*** Workers from the Kids Kabin asked the children and young people what they would like to see happening.

Other ideas included:

Cheerleading  
Website design  
First Aid

***To enable these sessions to happen the young people have managed to secure funding from various pots of money.***

***With their money they have also been able to purchase two computers, two cameras and one laptop. The First Aid sessions are also due to start soon.***

As Shauna and Hazel gave us a tour of the Kids Kabin they talked us through many of the photographs on the walls. Photographs of camping trips over the years. *Hazel and Shauna also told Zoe and I of how all children and young people who access Kids Kabin are able to go on a residential. They also told us that during half term holidays then they go on trips – the last one was bowling. Donna also said that she enjoyed the bowling.*

Zoe and I also spent some time with the young people who are part of the 'Children's Decide' group. Sarah and Cheryl met with Alison to think about what they have been up to over the last few months for an article in a Children's Fund newsletter.

'Girly Gossip' (the name of the group) have:

- ***Organised bag packing to raise money for Kids Kabin trips***
- ***Phoned the Eagle's cheerleading teacher to ask if they will come and teach the girls cheerleading.***  
***- raised the money to make this happen***
- ***Attend meetings to look at the regeneration of Walker.***
- ***Took part in a debate about transport***
- ***Learnt how to make a complaint***
- ***Attended sessions on drugs/alcohol, smoking and vandalism***
- ***Filled in application forms to gain funding for the benefit of all the children in the Kids Kabin.***

When I went over my evaluation with the young people Donna, Nicole and Jamie-Leigh all agreed with it. I have made some changes because of the extra comments they made and added them in.

All in all there has been some significant changes in the way things are run at the Kids Kabin. Giving the young people more ownership of the sessions, from the funding of sessions, the planning of sessions and ultimately the running of sessions. It is hoped that the Children's Decide group will be able to transfer their skills to support and facilitate development with children and young people from the Kids Kabin.

The Kids Kabin are in the process of taking their sessions out into the community. They hope to achieve this in two ways.

1. For the young people to develop and plan community projects planning and preparing sessions that try to make links with their community and help the environment.
2. Start outreach sessions. Young people and staff running sessions in other venues around the area, and in the summer out on the streets.

- The young volunteers have already had their first meeting to look at this. The young people have talked about what area they think they could move into and together they have discussed and began to plan what resources they need and what they need to do to make these sessions happen.

Kids Kabin also offer a 'Family Learning' session. With referrals made from the local schools, parents and their children access Kids Kabin on a Friday afternoon from 1pm-3pm and join in art sessions together. This has so far proved successful and it is hoped that these sessions will continue.

Another development of working more closely with the community has resulted in a new Saturday session. A group of parents got together to raise some money in order for this to happen and it is hoped that it will be starting soon.

Hazel, Shauna, Nicole, Jamie-Leigh and Donna and all of the other young people I met with enjoy what happens at the Kids Kabin. The young people are included and do have a say in what they can do, what session they take part in and now planning and creating their own sessions. Will is currently looking at how the young people can achieve some accreditation for the work they are involved in.

Evidence of dialogue and change is clearly demonstrated and the young people's participation is planned into future developments. Due to the continued commitment from the team in supporting and encouraging the young people in achieving their goals I would like to recommend that Kids Kabin retain their Investing in Children Membership.

**Helen Mulhearn**  
**liC Membership Coordinator**  
**March 2007**