



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

### **West End Woman and Girls Centre**

Having been to West End Woman and Girl's Centre (WEWGC) a number of times now, I was welcomed once again by the welcoming atmosphere and friendly faces of the staff and girls – as well as a beautiful smell of pancakes that were being freshly prepared for tea.

For the purpose of writing this report, I met with the girls from the transitions project. This group meet on:

- Monday – primary school age
- Wednesday – secondary school age
- Thursday – joint session for both age groups.

The nature of this group is to provide homework support as well as issue based work. A lot of this work has been around the Every Child Matters Agenda this year. During every session the girls either make/bake some kind of healthy food or obviously get to eat it for their tea.

For the session that I attended (on the Thursday evening) I had the pleasure of meeting with: Jacqueline, Brooke, Lauren, Chelsea, Kit-Ieng, Kit – Ian, Samantha, Samantha, Lucy, Gyptch, Chanice and Wengsi.

### **Evidence of dialogue with children and young people:**

The girls told me that they had been involved in the following, over the last year:

- They have been involved in the design process of the new WEWGC building. This is something that the girls felt important to be part of because they use it so often. The plans are actually up on a board in the centre so that everyone can see them and make comments. The girls all agreed that they had their opinions listened too and they felt that their ideas had been taken on board for when the building starts to be built.
- They have started making photo books of what is important to them by taking photos and sticking them into their personal books. These can then be used as evidence for applying for funding or to demonstrate what the girls have been working on.
- They raised money to go onto a residential to Kielder. They held a giant sleepover for a BT grant and the rest of the money came from the Keyfund. As well as going to Kielder the girls also had enough money left over to go horse riding. They said that they had chosen to go horse riding and it wasn't an adult's decision.
- The girls have been taking part in children's right sessions, where they have been learning about their rights as children and young people. They all said that they felt that they had learnt something from these sessions and they enjoyed doing freeze frames and the games.

- The children decide group – they have been involved in an anti smoking campaign. They learnt about the effects of passive smoking and also were involved in getting Cruddas Park smoke free. As a result of this piece of work, the girls won the BT Seen and Herd Award for this region.
- By making badges and biscuits and selling them at the Annual General Meeting, the girls managed to raise £56.00 for Marie Curie Cancer Care.
- Finally, the girls were involved in creating a green space DVD, where they compared Saltwell Park with Elswick Park to find out which one was the best. Saltwell won!! They also designed questionnaires to find out what other children think of the parks and their DVD was shown at the Green Festival which was a massive achievement and something the girls were very proud of!

**Comments made by the children and young people about the project and their involvement:**

“It’s lively and fun!”

“The people here are really friendly!”

“It’s amazing”

“Wicked”

**Recommendations made by the girls:**

“We should be able to get the internet in the building” – this is difficult because of funding issues however when the new building is complete, that will have full internet access.

“The Children Decide group want to do some work around bullying and unfair treatment in schools (they have decided they want to do this and not the adults)

“We should organise more trips away for next year!”

*All of the young people that were involved in this report have approved the content and agree with everything written.*

This report clearly highlights that West End Woman and Girls Centre have been doing some fantastic work over the past year and I would have no hesitation in recommending them for another successful year of Investing in Children membership.

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**Investing in Children**  
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