



## Evaluation for Investing in Children membership:

### Linhope Pupil Referral Unit

*"The teachers are belta here, I get on with them proper sweet"*

The Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) is the only one in Newcastle and it currently holds 170 pupils. The PRU is for children and young people who have been permanently excluded from school or who have been referred through the Placement Review Group, to avoid them being excluded. Potentially the school can cater from year one to year eleven however at the moment most pupils are Key Stage 4 and in year 10 and 11. The children and young people in Key Stage 4 spend part of their time doing Key Stage 4 work and the other part of their time is spent with other educational providers. The school is very proud that they received good feedback in the local JAR inspection (2006) and also Ofsted inspection in 2004.

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

- ✚ All children and young people are invited to their review and also have an input into it. They are given a questionnaire to fill in about their learning before the review. This gives the children and young people a method of feeding into their review, even if they don't feel comfortable, or want to go along.
- ✚ Neighborhood Services make 1 hot meal per day however the children and young people have the option not to have this meal, and if they would prefer, they can get a fresh sandwich made for them. The children and young people place their order during registration.
- ✚ There is fresh fruit available at break times for anyone who would like some.
- ✚ The children and young people have the opportunity to maintain independent travel. If a child or young person is only at Linhope for a short time, sometimes their previous school can pay for a taxi to get them to and from home however all children and young people that are permanently at Linhope are encouraged to chose whether they would prefer independent travel.
- ✚ The school has a celebration of work shown in their corridors, that the young people have demonstrated achieving different goals. This includes different pieces of work by the young people as well as photographs, charts and hand drawn pictures.
- ✚ The children and young people from within the school had the opportunity to be part of a fundraising event for their local cat and dog shelter. They raised £122.75 by making Christmas decorations and selling paper back books. This then fed into their "making a positive contribution" agenda as part of ECM.
- ✚ The school council has been quite difficult to set up due to the high turnover of children and young people however now there have been members who have volunteered to do it, so it has been set up. There is a school council for the Key Stage 2/3 pupils and also the key Stage 4 pupils.

The first time I visited the school, the key Stage 2/3 council had, had two meetings. At their first meeting they discussed:

- ✚ Red nose day ideas – sports related like football.
- ✚ Design a red nose day t shirt to win an Easter egg.
- ✚ A review of the school rules: (see appendix 2-5)

*Changes requested by the children and young people to their school rules:*

- Not enough colour
- There should be speech bubbles going round with examples in each one.
- More colour



- Looks like a tombstone
- The picture of the bin should be bigger

- The clock should be the time that Linhope starts rather than a random 10 2.



to



- “We don’t have to do our best all of the time because different people’s “bests” are different”.

- ✚ The group also decided that they would like refreshments during their meetings to make it more professional and like adults meetings. The refreshments requested were: drinks, tea, chocolate biscuits, digestives and bonbons.

Then second time I visited the children and young people were looking at the new versions of the rules that have been designed with their comments in mind. This clearly shows that the school has taken on board what the young people have said and acted on it. I could see myself that the new designs have incorporated some of the above comments.

The children and young people were then asked what they would like to see in their classrooms and on the walls in September when they return. They came up with:

- Smart boards
- Different coloured walls because they are all dull
- More NUFC player posters on the wall – the club design educational posters with player’s photos on them.

This is Linhope’s first application for liC membership and I am really impressed with what I have seen while working in the school. The young people have the opportunity to have dialogue with staff and some of the evidence I have gathered shows that they are listened too and the school act on their word.

The headmaster has a friendly approach with the children and young people and it was evident that they feel they can also speak to him for whatever reason.

I have no hesitation in recommending Linhope for Investing in Children membership and I look forward to working with them in the future.

**All of the children and young people involved in this report have agreed the content and recommendations.**

**Ashleigh Greathead  
August 2007**