



Evaluation for Investing in Children membership

Al Ghazali Multi -Cultural Centre Youth Club

The Al Ghazali Multi Cultural offers a lot of services to all members of the community. Leyla (the company secretary) told me how the centre does a lot of work with adults and parents with the Adult education project, and with children and young people on the Education project and the supplementary school. Leyla then introduced me to Osama, Hisham, Sarah and Wahib who all very kindly told me about the Al Ghazal Youth Club.

Evidence of Dialogue and Change

Decision Making

The group started by telling me how all the children and young people are involved in making decisions. Wahib said, “We work as a family like. We listen to each other and there is a lot of respect. Respect for other people is really important. So if someone really likes the football say, then we all work together and maybe arrange trips to Anfield”. He continued to explain “It’s very informal how we decide things. We just talk amongst ourselves and with the manager and then its easy to decide on things”.

I asked the group what would happen if someone was really shy and didn’t feel comfortable talking in front of other people. Sarah told me “We have a suggestion box in reception. We put it there cos that’s the best place for it. Everyone walks past or people can sit there so everyone can use it” Wahib added “The manager opens the box about once a week and then talks to everyone about the ideas. But it gives everyone the chance to change things”.

I asked if any of the group had made any suggestions or asked for any changes to be made and I was told of lots of things.

Tuck Shop

Hisham proudly explained about the tuck shop. “It was my idea and my sisters. I told the youth club manager and we spoke to everyone else and they all thought it was a good idea. We decided we should run it cos it was our idea”. Hisham and Sarah went on to explain how they work together to run the tuck shop and how they ask everyone what they should sell. Hisham said “We check with people, we just ask”. The tuck shop is a thriving business open for both the boys and girls youth club.

Grant Applications

Wahib explained how the young people write funding applications for things they want and need. Recently the young people wrote a funding bid for wheelchair access to the building. This was obviously an important issue for Wahib. He said “It’s important so people don’t feel like they’re in another world and enjoy themselves with other people. Our youth club is downstairs, so people need to be able to get downstairs, but for this we needed a ramp and a special door. I filled in the forms and a member of staff helped me, but it was an important thing to do”. The original funding application was for £6,000 but in the end they were awarded £7,000!! Hisham and Osama went on to talk to me about other grants they have applied for. Hisham said “Loads of people were asking for different game consoles, so we put in applications for them”. Osama added “Some kids are materialistic and they want all the new games. The best thing for me though is

playing table tennis. Once there were too many wanting to play table tennis, so we bought two table tennis tables. See we get listened to and we get what we want". Hisham suddenly remembered "I also helped put in an application for a PS2. I filled in the form and just wrote what we wanted".

The Karate Club

Al Ghazali runs a very valued and successful karate club. Wahib said "We get a teacher who comes every Saturday and Sunday". Then Hisham added "I run a beginners class for people just learning on a Saturday and Sunday as well. It was my idea. Osama and me run it together. We get about ten people coming. When they are ready to take the grading they move up to the next teacher. I am a second black belt. A lot of people were asking me to open a beginners class, so I went with the idea and that's what we did" I was then told by the rest of the group that Hisham, is the under 16's UK karate champion! Very impressive.

The young people I spoke to are very proud of their youth club. All the young people have decorated their youth club. They have put their hand prints on the walls and signed their names to show it belongs to them. Osama, Hisham, Sarah and Wahib shared lots of evidence of ongoing dialogue and change within their club. When I asked if they thought they should get membership there is a unanimous YES. All the young people have agreed with this report. I therefore have no hesitation in recommending that Al Ghazali Multi-Cultural Youth Club should receive Investing in Children membership. Well done!

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Investing in Children
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