



## Evaluation for Investing in Children membership

### Kensington Junior Youth Inclusion Project

The Youth Inclusion Project involves young people aged 9 to 12 years of age. It offers educational and recreational courses and activities, and individual support. On my visit to YIP I was made to feel welcome by Maureen and Danny, who also provided me with lots of information about the project. To help me write this evaluation I had the pleasure of meeting with Lauren, Bethen, Peter, Chloe, Connor and Demi.

Connor informed me of the different days and times Yip is open.

**“Monday is for boys and girls at the Sports Centre.**

**Tuesday is lads night at the Sports Centre.**

**Wednesday is Girls night at the Centre.**

**Thursday is mixed night at the Centre.**

**Friday is mixed night too.”**

One young person told me, **“When we don’t come here there’s nothing to do. But here we get to do loads of things and its fun.”**

### **Evidence of Dialogue and Change**

#### **YIP**

Lauren told me how she got involved with YIP. She said, **“I started coming here cos my sister goes to YIP. You usually need a form if none of your relatives come, but I just started coming. The main reason I come is cos it’s sort of like an after school club and my mum works at the hospital so she’s not able to pick me up at half three”** Bethen added, **“I started coming cos my mum and dad work. I come here till my mum or dad pick me up. The best thing is getting to see Mo, Danny, Jenny, Mel and Kathy”** Lauren agreed, **“They are always friendly and sort arguments out.”** Peter told me, **“My sister use to come here so I wanted to.”** Demi said, **“We hang out with all our mates here.”**

Lauren commented on the snacks provided. **“We get toast everyday and juice. It’s lovely soft brown bread. When we first came they asked us what kind of bread we like and I love that. They go out and buy food and provide us with stuff that we ask for.”**

#### **Cookery**

Connor told me, **“We chose what we want to do, like cookery.”** Bethen explained, **“We all take turns to cook. When it’s ready to go in the oven they do that and when it’s ready to come out. It’s health and safety so we don’t burn.”** I asked Lauren and Bethen to explain how they decided to have cookery sessions. Bethen said, **“We were asked if we like cooking. If we had said no they wouldn’t have done it.”** Lauren added, **“It’s what we want to do. Like yesterday we asked if we could make Lasagne, but then we changed our minds so we made Pizza. And we have two cookery books with ingredients and recipes for things like ginger bread men. But we make cakes as well.**

**We make birthday cakes for everyone who comes here. I like the chocolate cake, we make lovely stuff.” (See CD attached)**

### **YIP Council**

Bethen said, **“We have a Council here, a YIP Council.”** Lauren added, **“All it is is to get things changed. If we don’t like stuff then we get it changed.”** Bethen explained how the Council works. **“Me and Connor are the Chair Persons but they call me the Vice Chair Person.”** Lauren added, **“We used to have a meeting on the first Thursday of every month. But now we meet every week. Really when we want to meet. There’s about five young people.”** I asked Lauren how it was decided who would be on the Council. She described the process. **“In the BIG VOTE we asked everyone who wanted to be in the YIP Council, then we all voted for who we wanted.”** Bethen continued, **“We wrote their names on a bit of paper, who we wanted. We’ll have another vote in two months so everyone can have a chance to be on the Council if they want to. But it’s up to us cos it’s our Council.”** The young people said **“You write the person’s name down and then you put it in the box”**. Another young person told me, **“I voted on a piece of paper. It was fair and the easiest way to do it.”**

### **Ideas Box**

Bethen informed me, **“When we have ideas we write them down and put them in the Idea’s Box. Then me and Connor take all of them out and talk about them with Mo. Then we get everyone together and talk about what we can or can’t do.”** However Connor added, **“If I wanted to do something I would just talk to Mo and then we would talk to everyone to see if they wanted to do it. I have asked for new equipment and games. And I have asked for different projects. Most times we have got them. But if we don’t get them, then they say why. So then we might try again or come up with something similar that can work”** Another young person agreed. They said, **“We don’t always use the Ideas Box cos it’s easier to talk to everyone.”**

### **Trips**

Lauren enthusiastically told me about the trips. **“With trips we go to lots and lots of places. We’ve been ice staking, horse riding and we’ve been to Camelot and we’ve booked for Gulliver’s World for half term. For Christmas we always have a trip. We want to go to the Pantomime. We have talked to Mo and now we have booked Doctor Doolittle.”** Lauren continued, **“Sometimes we all write things down about where we want to go. (See Attached) The girls decided to go to Southport baths, so Mo is booking it for Wednesday night. So we will have to take our swimming costumes obviously.”** Peter added, **“We all asked to go to Camelot.”** Chloe said, **“We don’t have to pay for the trips which is good cos it means everyone can go.”**

One young person told me, **“If it’s somewhere we can’t go then everyone is told why. But I’ve never heard them say no.”** Another young person said, **“I wanted to go horse riding so everyone sat down with Mo and everyone talked about it. Cos I was little I only got a little pony.”** His friend quickly added, **“But you still fell off it twice!”**

The young people decide and plan the activities and events they want to get involved with. These range from all their activities through to events such as their YIP Funday in August. (See attached). The adults and young people try very hard to let everyone know what is going on. As well as regular Council meetings Chloe proudly told me, **“We do posters so we can put them on the wall so everyone knows what’s happening.”**

The Youth Inclusion Project in Kensington is a friendly and fun place. The young people and staff treat each other with respect. Everyone works hard at listening to each other and valuing other people’s opinions. The staff are always open to new ideas and suggestions. Chloe stated, **“I get listened to here, I get to talk.”**

I would like to thank everyone for their time and help. The young people I spoke to were determined and in full agreement that YIP should receive Investing in Children Membership. In light of this and the commitment to involving children and young people in meaningful dialogue and change, I have no hesitation in recommending that The Youth Inclusion Project receives Investing in Children Membership. Very well done.

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**Investing in Children**  
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