



Re-evaluation for Investing in Children membership

10 Brough Close

I arranged a meeting to go and speak to the staff at the home on 17th June 2008. I spoke to Keith from the home to get an idea of how the young people in the home are involved. Keith gave me examples of how the young people were involved. At the time, they had 3 young people in the home but one young person was not staying long.

Keith listed what he felt was relevant:

- They have regular young people and house meetings. He told me that any agreed changes from meetings are made. Two examples were that young people asked for Sky TV and more time on the internet. And these happened.
- When new people come into the home, there is a meeting for everyone to discuss the impact of a new admission.
- They discuss with all young people why some young people may need more of staffs time and attention than others, so there isn't any animosity in the home. And, this is to ensure that the other young people feel that they are getting the support and attention they feel they need.
- One young person goes to Middlesbrough football academy most if not every school holiday, because he is into football. Another young person has a nature garden he looks after. As he is also interested in the Universe and camping, the staff have arranged for him to go to Keilder Forest Planetarium.
- One of the young people requested a new bed and a smaller room as he felt more secure in a smaller space. The staff changed rooms with the young person as this was important to him and a new bed was brought.
- The staff have also given a lot of help to one of the young person as he receives quite a bit of money through benefits. They worked with him on how to save, working towards independence and moving on. They have also helped him to get on a Maths A Level course.

I met with Craig, one of the young people in the home on 26th June 2008. We talked about some of the things that Keith had told me about and also what else happened in the house that Craig wanted to tell me.

Evidence of Dialogues and Changes

Craig talked about lots of things that happened in the home and how he was listened to:

- *Garden:* he said that the garden was to encourage butterflies and wild animals, but

not many butterflies had been around because there weren't enough flowers.

- *New Young People in the house:* Craig agreed that it is talked about but felt that there was room for improvement in this area. He ***“didn't think that they talked enough about new young people coming to live in”***. When I asked him to tell me why he thought that, and what he thought they should talk about, he replied that ***“they should talk about the risk to other young people in the home, the attitude of the young person and how they had been with other young people in other placements, and that staff said things like ‘keep out of the way’ but don't explain why they said it”***
- *Young People's meetings:* Craig said that they ***“work well a lot of the time, work for me”***. He talked about how he has had a lot of time given to him by Keith. He feels he can make requests for things in the home and they are done. He talked about how he wanted more time on the internet and he got it but he does not use it so much anymore.
- I asked if they got Sky TV and he said they did. I told Craig that Keith had told me about the planetarium and Craig answered he was ***“going to the planetarium when Keith and Nikki are both on a weekend. This has not taken place yet but is going to”***
- *Moving onto independence:* I asked Craig about the support he had received in preparing him to independent living. Craig felt that Keith had understood him, his fears and wishes, but that the social worker was not listening.

Craig had concerns about how much money he would have. He was scared that he would have to pay too much rent and wanted to know also how much spending money he would get once bills are paid.

Craig told me about his concerns about where his planned placement was. It is in Sunderland. Craig explained how he didn't want to live in a big city, so far away from his family and especially in Sunderland as he is a big Newcastle supporter!

Craig expressed how he felt that Keith understood his concerns but explained how his social worker has not given him enough options. He said ***“They're taking a minor disability too seriously. It just makes me a bit clumsy and shaky but gives me a really intelligent brain”***.

Craig's feelings around those issues are that he gets support from the staff. However, he feels that something needs to change around the options he is given for moving on.

I recommend that more discussion is needed around what Craig wants from a future placement.

- *Handover:* From conversations with Craig, I recommend that staff reconsider where handover takes place. Craig found that having a handover in the kitchen/dining area can get in the way when he is wanting/ needing to work on his A level Math's in quiet. He suggests that handover takes place in the front room or lounge so they will not be disturbed.

When I asked Craig if he felt he was listened to and if his views were taken into account, his answer was “*I think Staff does it, but Social Workers don’t*”.

So on the bases of this, I recommend that 10 Brough Close receives Investing in Children Membership

Tabatha Tilley
Investing in Children
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