



investing in children

Re-evaluation for Investing in Children membership

12 Brough Close

There are currently two residents at 12 Brough Close. On my recent visits, there was a happy atmosphere between the residents and staff. I was made to feel welcome and the staff enthusiastically informed me about their continued commitment to develop with young people, policies and practice around dialogue and change.

For the purpose of this evaluation I had the pleasure of meeting with David and Dione

Evidence of Dialogue and Change

Key Worker

The young people have a key worker and a co key worker. Their role is to help and support the young people in things they want to know, do or achieve. The young people are consulted with, before a key worker is appointed, and the young people told me that if they were not happy then they could request to change their key worker. David said, **“The staff listen to what I say. Normally they say why things happen and we talk about it.”** Dione agreed that everything is talked about and explained.

Young People’s Meeting

For most of the time dialogue between staff and young people is informal and takes place during the daily routine of living together. The two young people I spoke to prefer the informal way they can approach staff and get issues resolved. David said, **“If I have a good idea or want to do something I would just talk to the manager about it. We have meetings but I never go, well I do sometimes. I just talk to people when I need to.”**

I chatted to David and Dione about how decisions are made and how they can get involved. They told me about the Young People’s meetings. Dione said, **“We talk about things. Things that I want to do, then they help me to do it.”** The Young People’s meetings provide the opportunity for issues to be raised about such things as designated areas for smoking and Fire Procedures. **(See minutes attached)** It also provides the opportunity for the staff to inform the residents of new people coming to stay at 12 Brough Close and for dialogue to take place about how they feel about a new person coming to live with them.

The minutes from the meetings are regularly recorded. There have been lots of discussions about requests to go camping, ice skating, quad biking, Dione told me about some of the changes that had been made as a result of the meetings. **“I suggested that we should go to Flamingo Land and we went. The staff are always going to listen to you.”**

The Garden

David and Dione are very proud of their garden. They told me how they have developed the garden, David said, **“It was my idea to have a pond. We asked the manager and they agreed. Me and Stephen found the pond and we found the bath as well. That**

big tin bath, we brought that up and we put plants in it. We try to grow our own veg like peas, they are my favorite. It was my idea so I get to eat them all.” Dione added, **“I’ve done the rockery and I dig the plants. I looked after the frogs too. I love playing football in the garden. I choose the plants. I go to the plant centre and pick the flowers I want, I got the pink ones.”** David finished by telling me, **“The garden’s good. I think to myself, I have done that. That’s mine.”**

Trips and Holidays

Dione told me how they decide where to go on trips and holidays. **“When I first came here, CATS took me away to Yorkshire for the day. And they took me to Holy Island. It was suggested and I said yeah.”** Dione then went on to explain what happens now. **“We talk about what trips to go on. Like Cadburys World. That was someone else’s idea but I agreed. We got free chocolate. We set off at 10 and got there at about 3. We got lost looking for the hotel. I wanted to go to the seaside yesterday and we did. I had the nicest bag of chips on the beach, loads of salt and vinegar.”** David added, **“And me, Tony and Pat went camping. That’s what I decided I wanted to do.”** (See the photos attached)

Decorating

David told me his bedroom was redecorated about 2 months ago. **“I decided on the colours for my room. I told the manager. I wanted two walls yellow and two walls orange. They said, well if that’s what you want then aye. I watched my key worker do it how I said I wanted it. I wrote on the walls the colours they had to go. Now it’s good.”**

The young people’s bedroom are private and their responsibility. Dione proudly showed me the fish she looks after. **“I brought my pet fish with me, it’s called Van Nistleroy. I clean it out and feed it.”** David said, **“Staff always knock and ask if it’s ok for them to come in.”**

During my visits to 12 Brough Close I spoke to staff and two of the young people who live there. Dione and David left me in no doubt that they are able to express their views and influence change. There are formal opportunities for young people to have their say, but both David and Dione told me that in general they can have issues resolved by approaching staff on a day to day basis. As both Dione and David agreed with the evaluation I have no hesitation in recommending that 12 Brough Close once again receives Investing in Children Membership.

**Glenys Newby
Investing in Children
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