



Re-evaluation for Investing in Children membership

Bishop Auckland Student Support Service

Over the course of its previous re-evaluations, the student support council at Bishop Auckland College has clearly demonstrated its practice of dialogue with young people that use the service. All the young people I met with spoke very highly of the centre and the work it has been doing.

In this report I hope to highlight how the student support service has continued to build upon excellent practice and develop new initiatives as a result of dialogue with young people.

Opportunities for Dialogue and Change

Student Council/Student Voice

This has been developed to encourage student participation. The council is currently in the process of being changed to enable more student voice.

(Appendix 1)

Class Representatives Council

In each class a number of young people are elected and forward the views of their class. Students and staff from the student support centre meet to discuss and address the issues.

During a class representative meeting the students raised the issue on whether or not a summer programme would be delivered this year. Following this a programme of activities was organised over the summer holidays. The students also asked if activities could be run during lunch times and following this there are now various activities available to students.

(Appendix 2)

Beyond the Bump

This is a group that has been set up to support all young parents and expectant parents attending college and aims to be student led responding to their identified needs.

In previous years two drop in sessions per week have been held enabling students to access advice and support. It also offers activities and workshops throughout the year. Information is sent out to all students with care 2 learning applications.

(Appendix 3)

LGBT

The lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender group has been running in the college for over a year. The group participate in activities, raise funds and work with other local agencies.

(Appendix 4)

Women and Men's Health Groups

The projects aim to encourage students to adopt a healthy lifestyle and improve their emotional, mental, physical and sexual health. Exercise sessions, healthy eating advice and visits from health professionals are all part of the programme

(Appendix 5)

Mates at College

This is a buddy system within the college to help and ease transition from school into further education, providing support and friendship for those who need it. Full training is provided and certificates are awarded to buddies.

Last years group gained the Diana Princess of Wales Memorial Anti bullying Award for their cross college bullying work and contribution to the bullying policy. They also gained the peer support group of the year.

(Appendix 6)

S.E.T 4 Life

S.E.T 4 Life is a multi agency OCN Level 2 Peer education programme delivered over 17 weeks in a local school which contributes to the government's strategy to reduce teenage pregnancy and the active rise in sexually transmitted infections. Students have the opportunity to gain the knowledge and skills to enable them to deliver sex and relationship education to groups of young people.

A successful pilot received excellent feedback from students and schools where the project was delivered.

(Appendix 7)

Citizenship questionnaire

A questionnaire was designed and has been sent out to students asking about the services they access outside of college. Following this a reward scheme is in the process of being developed to encourage and support external activities.

(Appendix 8)

Focus Group Questionnaires

All full time students are asked in tutorials to complete the questionnaire on how they feel about the following topics/items:

- Bus pass / Transport
- Activities / Hive
- New Logo
- New build
- Library
- Refectory
- The induction pack
- College Handbook

(Appendix 9)

Young Peoples comments

Firstly I spoke with Kevin (17) who told me the following;

'I am part of the Men's Health Group we asked for 5 a side leagues to be organised and now we have a league'

'In the old college we asked for new equipment and now we have it'

'I have developed personally as a person through the help of the student support service'

'They have helped me in tutorials and with sexual health and drugs etc... .'

'The student support centre is really good they try and help you as quickly as they can'

I then spoke to Carrie-Ann who is 17 and she told me;

'If you need any help you can come and talk to them and nothing goes out of the four walls'

'They run loads of groups that you can get involved in'

'Last week all my dates got mixed up and they sorted it straight away, they seem to be really fast at doing things'

Leanne (22) who is involved in the young parents group said;

'They have helped me a lot, my son goes to the crèche and it's good. They provide activities such as a Halloween party'

Finally I spoke with Liam (17) who started the mates at college group and is also involved in the set for life project. ***'We are going to two schools soon'***.

'I am in the training group for the Buddy service and am going to go see the college principal to propose that we get a room'

'I use the student support service all the time they are all brilliant people, if they can't help you someone else in the service will or they will get you the answers as soon as they can'

'Over the summer there was a summer programme run at the college it was on for 2 weeks'

Conclusion

When you walk into Bishop Auckland Student Support Service you are surrounded by lots of activity. There is always someone there to help and students are being seen to with all sorts of queries from needing help with lessons, sorting out EMA, loosing bus passes or information about any number of issues and problems!

The service continues to provide a comprehensive service to ALL students at the college, responding to issues raised by young people and by introducing new ideas and services to make life better and easier for all students.

Kevin, Carrie Ann, Leanne and Liam all said they '***definitely listen and things do happen***'. In light of this and on their ***behalf*** I have no hesitation in recommending that Bishop Auckland Student Support Service have their Investing in Children Membership renewed.

Well Done!

Eleanor Seed
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Investing In Children
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