



## Re-evaluation for Investing in Children membership

### Brandon Library

I visited Brandon Library on a Monday evening during the Chatterbooks Club. The session runs from 4 till 5pm and is open to all children and young people.

During my visit I met with 4 young people accessing the library. Firstly I met with Beth who is 11 years old and has been going to the library since she was in year 4 at school.

*'I started going to the summer club in the holidays last year and from then on I have been attending the Chatter books group every two weeks'*

There are several ways in which children and young people can be involved in **Dialogue and Change** at the library these are:

#### Suggestion Box

Young People have the opportunity to put forward their views and opinions about the library which are then discussed to see what is and what is not possible.

#### Notice Board

A notice board is up in the library. The young people can swap and change notices when they want. It is also used to publicise events and competitions.

#### Chatter Books Club

*'Every week we get a book to take away and read and review it to see if it's good for the library'*

*'I like the fact you can read the books and then review them'*

*'Normally we have a sheet you fill in when you have read a book. You have to rate it, say what's good and bad about it and say if we would recommend it to a friend. They then take our comments into consideration to see if the book should be put into the library'*

*'The last chatter books group had 4/5 young people in it, they were given a budget for the library and had to choose what books to buy. They ended up buying around 50 books'*

*'Sometimes say if I read a chapter of a book at school or anywhere else and I like it and think its good. I could go to the library and ask if we could get one for other young people using the library'*

*'I come up with suggestions of what to read next time we meet'*

## Reading Challenge

*'In the summer holidays we had a reading challenge on for children, we played games such as the book character game; where you don't talk and you have to guess who it is'*

*'We also had prizes, competitions, certificates and a little party where you got food and drinks'*

## Arts and Crafts

*'We get to do lots of other things as well as read books like make Christmas cards and Easter craft things'*

*'We made a clippy mat rug'*

*'We make bookmarks, book games, go on the computers and do quizzes etc... .'*

*'In the summer there were activities on something different each week. You could make photo frames, bird feeders, bracelets using beads and do pebble painting'*

## Website

*'We are able to make comments online about certain books, as part of the reading challenge'*

## Other comments

*Beth then went on to tell me 'I would like to work here'*

*'They listen to you and don't make all the decisions; I come back every two weeks because it's fun!!'*

*'You are able to use the internet on the computers'*

*'If I had to sum up the library in two words it would be 'Brilliant Books!''*

I then spoke to Marc and Thomas (both 14) who told me they have been coming to the library since reception class at school.

*'When we where in reception class the school used to bring us to the library but once we were old enough to come on our own we did.*

*'I like the Simpson's comics the best they are what children want'*

*'Three years ago I came for home tutoring as I was having problems at school; I came three times a week to use the computers for half a year. It was really good as it was quiet and helped me lots'*

Finally I spoke to Jeffrey who told me *'I like the computers, I think if there was anything that you wanted and asked for they would try and get it for you'*

*'I have seen people come in before and ask for books and CDs that they have ordered'*

*'If we could get more computers that would be good'*

## **Conclusion**

Over the last year or so Brandon Library has continued to involve children and young people in decision making.

There was a variety of activities on offer and all of the young people I spoke to seemed at home and happy with the library and how they are involved.

I have no hesitation but to recommend that Brandon Library continues to be an Investing in Children member and have its membership renewed.

This report has been endorsed by the young people accessing the library and I would like to say a special thanks for the involvement.

**Eleanor Seed**  
**Project Worker**  
**Investing in Children**  
**December 2007**