



## Evaluation for Investing in Children membership

### Castleside Youth Club

Castleside Youth Club currently runs every Wednesday evening from 6.30pm till 8.30pm from the Old school building.

Young People have the opportunity to access general activities including playing pool, playing on the Wii and quizzes etc.

The young people told me how they first met the youth workers whilst on the streets and they talked about doing things. *'The first time we met them we were getting moved on by the police. We were sick of this happening so together with the workers we decided to look at finding a place for us to meet'*

*'We found this place (the old school building) so we said why can we not re open it as it used to be where the youth club run from before and so they did'*

*'We didn't have anything to do so we kept getting moved on'*

*'The police came because we were getting wrong so we said we were bored and said why don't we start a youth club'*

During my visit I met with Rebecca 14, James 14, Steven 14, Andrew 14, Sophie 13, Mathew 14, Laura 16, Hannah 14 and Jake 13.

They told me all about the club, what they get up to, the projects they are involved with and what the club means to them.

### **Opportunities for Dialogue and Change/Young People's Comments**

#### Youth Opportunities Fund

*'Lately we have been doing a lot of work on the Youth Opportunities Fund. We have had loads of meetings'*

*'We applied for £24,000 because we wanted to do the building up that we use and we were successful and got all the money'*

*'We want to buy new equipment as well so we have been getting quotes for TV's, Sports Equipment, Pool tables, an air hockey game and lots of other things'*

*'We plan on splitting the room into two rooms'*

*'Next year we are hopefully going to apply for more funding to get the other room done'*

## Mapping

*'We did a story board to where we are now. How we got influenced by other groups i.e. Drugs and other organisations. So we did a photo shoot and made a presentation about the rooms. Approximately 20 people came to the club to see it'*

## Activities

*'They asked if we wanted to go on a trip so we said yeah "McDonalds and Go Karting"  
'We have been on a go Karting trip and McDonalds'*

*'We went go karting it was hellish.... I came 2<sup>nd</sup>!!'*

*'We did alcohol awareness sessions they were really good, you got to wear beer goggles and do different scenarios'*

*'We went on a visit to Cap a pie as there was a group of young people performing a play about drugs and alcohol. We got to ask them questions and went backstage'*

*'We have also been to Stanley Youth Centre as we wanted to see how other clubs are run. We did archery and had healthy snacks from the healthy bar'*

*'We worked together to plan the Halloween night and we are having a Christmas party in two weeks time which we asked for'*

*'We do educational things as well like safety in a public place'*

## Interviews

*'Some of us have been involved in the interviews for the workers for the club. We have just selected 'Julie and Tom' who start after Christmas'*

## Other comments

*'We have got our own management committee for the club'*

*'It's got a lot better because we were just stuck in one room but now we are able to go in the other room too'*

*'Once it's all been done out it will be Perfect!'*

*'When we get the room done out we will be officially opening it and the club will run two nights a week'*

## The Future

*'In a years time I would like the other room to be done'*

*'I would also like the club to be open at least 2nights a week'*

*'I would like the club to be more established and the building be modernised'*

*'We will have our website up and running then!'*

*'I would like to think there is a possibility to open a café jointly with the art section'*

*'Next summer we plan to go away on a residential camping!'*

*'We plan on doing more key fund activities to go on trips'*

*'We are going to make our own rules and have membership forms'*

### Conclusion

In my view the young people's voices are what make Castleside Youth Club. All the young people I met with spoke extremely positive about the club and it is clearly demonstrated that there is meaningful participation of all the young people.

Therefore all the young people I met with and I have no hesitation in recommending that Castleside Youth Club becomes Investing in Children members.

This report has been endorsed by the young people at the centre.

**Eleanor Seed**  
**Investing in Children**  
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